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OPEC Affairs

Reportage on 87th OPEC Conference Continues

UAE Minister Defends $20 Price

PM2707113490 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 27 Jul 90 pp 14-15

[Unattributed interview with Petroleum & Natural Resources Minister Dr. Mani' Bin-Sa'id al-'Utaybah; place, date unspecified]

[Excerpts] AL-HAWADITH: What is the nature of the present crisis in the oil market?

Dr. al-'Utaybah: The crisis which the oil market has experienced and is experiencing is an indisposition, as we call it metaphorically. Like a human being, the oil market can suffer health problems. It is a living organism. It can fall ill and can also be treated, just like a human being. Although the oil market's indisposition has developed and produced some complications, these complications have started to disappear gradually. By the time we go to Geneva for the next meeting, oil prices will have returned to the $18-a-barrel level determined by the OPEC as a guide price.

AL-HAWADITH: Dr. Mani', what are the reasons for the oil market's indisposition?

Dr. al-'Utaybah: There are direct and indirect reasons. The direct reasons are known. I will talk about the indirect reasons, which are more important and have a stronger impact with regards to the problems which the oil market is currently suffering.

I can say now that the oil market is still recovering from the setbacks which it has suffered and from the big slump in oil prices following the prices war in 1986.

The reasons for that war and the parties that were behind it are known to everyone and are on record. We do not need to point an accusing finger at any party or individual, because that would be futile. We need to look at the positive aspects, not to waste our time looking for the negative aspects. A discussion of the negative aspects would lead to increasing problems and trouble in the oil market, which would be in the interests of neither OPEC nor its member states, all of which are developing states in need of every dollar they can secure from their oil revenues to keep their development machine turning.

So the oil market in 1990 has not fully recovered, and the wound which it sustained as a result of the price war before and after 1986 has not yet healed.

In November 1989 OPEC convened in an optimistic mood. The market was strong and production was comfortable. That gave many producers—both inside and outside OPEC—the impression that the lean years were over and that the prosperous years had started.

At that time, OPEC member states were producing to their utmost capacity, with the exception of two or three states, including the United Arab Emirates [UAE]. So there was no commitment to the decided quotas.

Thus the November conference had to face reality. It had a look at the actual output of these states and produced an agreement specifying a new production ceiling of 22.5 million barrels a day for 12 states, exempting the UAE from that ceiling. At the time it was producing 2.6 million barrels a day.

Then we were asked by the follow-up committee, which was headed by former Nigerian Oil Minister Lukman, to embark on the reduction process voluntarily. We were told literally that OPEC would be grateful if the UAE reduced its output to 2 million barrels a day—which the UAE regarded as a fair quota for it under the ceiling specified in the November 1989 agreement, namely, 22.5 million barrels a day.

At that time OPEC tacitly acknowledged the UAE's quota as 2 million barrels a day.

In response to that wish, the UAE agreed to reduce its output to 2 million barrels a day, provided that all states pledged themselves to the quotas decided for them in the agreement in question.

At the end of the meeting the UAE officially stated its reservations about setting our quota at 1.09 million barrels a day in the documents containing the clauses of the agreement.

Immediately after the end of the meeting, addressing all the reporters who attended the meeting, I announced our position on and reservations about the November 1989 decision.

After the November 1989 agreement, the oil market improved for a period of six weeks, after which excesses started to occur. They were sensed in the market, and we could not tolerate them. As a result, prices fell below the $18-a-barrel level.

Then the OPEC member states started their consultations. The UAE, Saudi, and Kuwaiti oil ministers met in Jeddah and requested an extraordinary OPEC ministerial follow-up committee meeting after 'Id al-Fitr. So the May meeting was held when oil prices were constantly falling. At that meeting the ministers decided that special temporarily measures be agreed upon and observed until the end of this month, July, to ensure a reduction of 1.4 million barrels a day from the OPEC member states' actual total output at the time. They believed that that would be sufficient to correct price trends and return them to the $18-a-barrel level.

AL-HAWADITH: Was that belief correct?

Dr. al-'Utaybah: We must ponder these measures a little. First, our viewpoint is that these measures, because they were taken hastily, were premature. Second, the understanding was not adhered to.

AL-HAWADITH: What was the UAE position on these measures, and what was its share in the reduction which you said was within 1.4 million barrels a day from the OPEC states' overall production at the time, that is, in May?

Dr. al-'Utaybah: The UAE's share in that reduction was 200,000 barrels a day.

AL-HAWADITH: But, Your Excellency, minister, if these measures had been adhered to, the situation would have been different. So the shortcoming was in the commitment, not in the measures themselves.

Dr. al-'Utaybah: The measures were premature because they were taken hastily. One of the measures was that states exceeding their production quotas decided in November 1989 to be kept to these quotas. Several states were exceeding their quotas at a time when some member states could not sell their complete quotas as a result of market conditions and the quality of their crude oil. It was assumed that these states would maintain their low output rates established in May, but a few weeks after the May measures it was discovered that these states—whose output as of May was below their quotas decided in November 1989—were able to sell their complete quotas after they reduced their prices. Besides, some other states continued to exceed their quotas specified in the November 1989 agreement. As a result, the market sensed that there was a continuing surplus and interacted with it negatively, and the minor illness turned into the setback which we have experienced recently, thus pushing oil prices to low levels—less than $10 a barrel for some types of crude oil.

AL-HAWADITH: What did the OPEC states do about that setback? And what action did it take to stop prices from continuing to fall and to correct their course?

Dr. al-'Utaybah: The producer states sensed the danger and contacts were made at various levels. The most important move made by the OPEC member states was the five-man meeting in Jeddah on 10 May attended by the Saudi, Iraqi, Kuwaiti, Qatari, and UAE oil ministers.

At that meeting the brothers proposed to us that the UAE adhere to the official OPEC ceiling. We welcomed that because we always wanted to reach such an agreement. But with what quotas will we join? With the quota set for us, namely, 1.09 million barrels a day, or the practical quota recognized for us, that is, 2 million barrels a day?

The brother ministers proposed to us in Jeddah an official quota of 1.5 million barrels a day. The UAE agreed to that proposal following cordial contacts. We emphasized again our utmost willingness to make sacrifices for the sake of the OPEC's unity and for the sake of defending a fair oil price and helping to remedy the oil market's ailments.

Then we announced that the UAE was for raising the favored oil price to $20-a-barrel level, because $18 a barrel is too low and does not correspond to the international economic situation in mid-1990. This is because of the inflation which has occurred in the international economy and also the weak purchasing power of the dollar, in which oil revenues are computed. So, $20 a barrel can be regarded as a fair and reasonable price which can be defended without causing any significant harm to the demand for OPEC oil and that demand's potential to continue to increase gradually. At the next OPEC meeting in Geneva we will support the decision to increase prices to $20 a barrel. We will also support the decision not to discuss the issue of raising the quotas until after the $20-a-barrel price is realized. [passage omitted]

Iraqi Paper Urges Adherence

JN2707092590 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0755 GMT 27 Jul 90

[Text] Baghdad, 27 Jul (INA)—The newspaper AL-QADISIYAH has stressed that strictly adhering to production quotas and maintaining the prices which OPEC will fix constitute the sound solution that will spare the organization's member states any artificial shocks.

In an article appearing today under the headline "OPEC's Choices," the paper says the current OPEC meeting in Geneva is a serious and significant turning point for the organization following the numerous setbacks it suffered in the past phase. The paper points out that OPEC member states hold around 75 percent of the world's oil reserves. This, the paper adds, constitutes a source of real strength for controlling oil prices and making them conform to their real value instead of submitting to the wishes of the consumer countries which sell the exporting countries very high-priced commodities.

AL-QADISIYAH stresses that "it is high time to stop this squandering of the financial resources of the oil producing countries." It says: U.S. imports of OPEC oil represent a large percentage of its total oil imports. This means that all suggestions about the United States not buying OPEC oil are m. aningless, and even a kind of political nonsense.

AL-QADISIYAH says: Oil's real value is not only in its use as a fuel, but also in its use in petrochemical industries. This decade and the next will witness a large increase in the use of oil in those industries, which means there will be a rise in consumption and an increase in the strategic importance of oil.

Concluding its article, AL-QADISIYAH urges those meeting in Geneva to take into account the interests of the organization's member states on the basis of a farsighted strategic view, and not on the basis of short-term interests. It stresses that this will yield the required results that will guarantee the interests of all.

Ceiling Set At 22.491 MBPD

LD2707131590 Tehran IRNA in English 1229 GMT 27 Jul 90

[Text] Geneva, July 27, IRNA—Oil Minister of the United Arab Emirates Mani' Sa'id al-'Utaybah said to reporters here Friday that OPEC ministers had agreed on dlrs. 21.00 as the benchmark price for each barrel of oil, and that OPEC's production ceiling is agreed to be 22.491 million barrels per day [MBPD] for the remainder of the 1990.

Benchmark price of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries for each barrel of oil before the ongoing 87th session of opec here was dlrs. 18.00.

OPEC ministers are to meet again at 15.00 hours local time today.

Today's meeting may conclude OPEC ministers' meet here.

Agreement Reached on $21 Price

JN2707121590 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1152 GMT 27 Jul 90

[Text] Geneva, 27 Jul (INA)—The INA office in Geneva has learned that the OPEC oil ministers have agreed to raise the price of crude oil to $21 per barrel as a first stage.

Reliable sources in the organization said that agreement on this issue was reached today at noon, and will be announced at 1600 when the ministers hold the final session of their 87th ordinary conference, which began in Geneva yesterday.

These sources said that there is a major possibility that the final statement of the conference will include a paragraph stating that the ultimate OPEC goal is to raise the oil price to $25 per barrel, thus indicating that the Iraqi call to raise OPEC oil to this price still stands, and could be reached at another stage.

UAE Supports Production Agreement

JN2707151990 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1425 GMT 27 JUl 90

[Text] Geneva, 27 Jul (WAKH)—Dr. Mani' Bin-Sa'id al-'Utaybah, United Arab Emirates [UAE] minister of petroleum and natural resources, has voiced his country's support for the agreement reached by OPEC oil ministers to raise prices to $21 per barrel and approve a production ceiling of 22.491 million barrels per day [BPD].

Dr. al-'Utaybah said the agreement is positive and will help stabilize the international oil market. He also predicted that prices will exceed $21 per barrel, but this will be contingent on the response of the oil market. Dr. al-'Utaybah further stressed that the UAE is committed to its production quota, which amounts to 1.5 million BPD.

In a statement carried by WAM, Dr. al-'Utaybah said: "We had hoped prices would go up to $20 a barrel; however, we approved the $21 price out of concern for OPEC unity." He added that OPEC will reconsider this agreement if prices on the oil market go over $21 per barrel. He also pointed out that the OPEC ministers will hold their next meeting late next November to discuss various developments emerging under the new agreement.

WAM, meanwhile, reports that the conferees formed a committee comprising the 13 ministers to monitor the production of OPEC member states, in case they produce more or less than what their official quotas allow, in order to assign new quotas in proportion with the volume of their production.

The conferees also decided to form two geographical subcommittees to facilitate the mission of the first committee in monitoring the production of member states according to their geographical location.

WAM noted that the first monitoring committee comprises oil ministers of the UAE, Saudi Arabia, and Iraq in addition to other states, while the second comprises the oil ministers of Libya, Algeria, Gabon, and others.

Press Release Issued

LD2707181690 Vienna OPECNA in English 1731 GMT 27 Jul 90

[Text] Geneva, 27 July 90 (OPECNA)—At the end today of the 87th meeting of the conference of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), the following press release was issued:

87th Meeting of the OPEC Conference Geneva, Switzerland, 26-27 July, 1990

The 87th meeting of the conference of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) was held in Geneva, Switzerland, from 26th to 27th July, 1990.

The conference unanimously elected as its president, HE [His Excellency] Sadek Boussena, minister of mines of Algeria and head of its delegation. HE Ginandjar Kartasasmita, minister of mines and energy of Indonesia and head of its delegation was unanmously elected alternate president.

The conference appointed Mr Suleyman al-Herbish, governor for Saudi Arabia, to be chairman of the Board of Governors for the remaining period of 1990.

The conference appointed Dr. Ramzi Salman 'Abd-al-Husayn as deputy secretary general, for a period of three years.

The conference reviewed and discussed the report of the Economic Commission Board, the report of the Secretariat on the monitoring of member countries' production, as well as the report of the eight-minister monitoring committee on quota and price levels.

After having reviewed the world oil market, in pursuance of OPEC Resolution No. 86.295 concerning price and production levels, noting the deterioration of oil prices in the past few months, determined to stabilize and

strengthen the world oil market, which is of crucial importance to both oil producers and consumers, taking into account the fact that the prices of oil need to be at a level which would ensure stable and just income for the producers, considering supply/demand of energy and the influence of market forces, and noting that its resolution is based on the full commitment that has been expressed by all member governments at the highest level to assure strict adherence to it, including quotas allocated, without allowing any member country to exceed its allocated quota for any reason whatsoever, the conference has resolved as follows:

1. That the minimum reference price for the OPEC crude basket shall be 21 US dollars per barrel.

2. That the total ceiling for OPEC production for the second half of the year 1990 is set at 22.491 mb/d [million barrels per day] (including the neutral zone), distributed among all OPEC member countries as follows:

Algeria 0.827	Ecuador 0.273	Gabon 0.197
Indonesia 1.374	I.R. Iran 3.140	Iraq 3.140
Kuwait 1.500	S.P. Libyan A.J. 1.233	Nigeria 1.611
Qatar 0.371	Saudi Arabia 5.380	United Arab Emirates 1.500
Venezuela 1.945		

3. That the monitoring committee composed of the heads of delegation of all member countries shall:

A) monitor the evolution of prices.

B) maintain constant vigil on the market with a view to monitoring demand in order to ensure that oil retains its position as the prime global energy source and that no structural change is taking place in favour of alternative sources of energy.

C) Strictly monitor the production and supply of oil of member countries through two sub-committees' as follows:

I) Algeria, Ecuador, Indonesia, Iraq, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

II) Gabon, Islamic Republic of Iran, Kuwait, the Socialist Peoples Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Qatar and Venezuela.

D) Said sub-committees will take into consideration all available information, namely both from member countries and from outside sources, necessary for the confirmation of the strict adherence on monthly basis by member countries. The work of the sub-committees shall be reported to the full ministerial monitoring committee.

E) In order to facilitate the work of the sub-committees, each member country shall, within seven (7) days, send to the OPEC Secretariat the details of its production and supply of oil, for the immediate preceding month.

4. In its next ordinary meeting the ministerial conference shall, if it is found that the actual price of the OPEC basket is above the reference price mentioned above, set a balance between the production ceiling and the price, whereby an increment on the ceiling is added plus an increment on the reference price.

5. When an increment on the production ceiling is decided, as mentioned in paragraph (4) above, it is agreed that such increment shall be redistributed among those countries with spare production capacity. If it is proven, through the monitoring procedures mentioned in (3) above, that a certain country or countries could not produce their appropriated quotas, then the non-produced portions shall be redistributed among those with spare production capacity at that time, by the conference.

6. In the next conference, a regrouping of the four quarters of the year is to be considered, whereby the first and fourth quarters will be addressed together in terms of supply and demand, similarly, for the second and third quarters in future agreements.

The conference expressed its sincere appreciation to the Government of Switzerland and to the Republic and Canton of Geneva for their warm hospitality and the excellent arrangements made for the meeting.

The conference passed resolutions which will be published on 26th August, 1990, after ratification by member countries.

The next ordinary meeting of the conference will be convened on the 12th December, 1990.

Further on Statement

JN2707165390 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1545 GMT 27 Jul 90

[Text] Geneva, 27 Jul (INA)—The OPEC oil ministers concluded their 87th conference in Geneva this evening and decided to raise the price of crude oil by $3, set a new production ceiling, and fix the quotas of OPEC member states.

According to a statement issued by the conference at the conclusion of the second session, the minimum price of crude oil was raised to $21 per barrel, a production ceiling of 22.491 million barrels per day was set for the second half of this year, the quotas of the OPEC member states were fixed without any change, and the United Arab Emirates [UAE] was added to the agreement.

The agreement, described by informed oil sources as a historic one, stresses the principle of complete and strict adherence by all members states to their defined quotas. The member states pledged adherence at the highest levels. To guarantee that these objectives will be met, a ministerial monitoring committee was formed of the oil ministers of all members states to continuously and accurately follow price developments and check up on the member states' oil production and supply.

The ministerial monitoring committee will carry out its mission through two ministerial subcommittees: The first consists of Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Algeria, Ecuador, Indonesia, Nigeria, and the UAE; the second consists of Libya, Qatar, Kuwait, Iran, Gabon, and Venezuela. The two committees will monitor price and production

developments as well as adherence to the set quotas in light of the information they receive, including that from foreign sources. The two committees report to the ministerial monitoring committee.

According to the agreement, after it becomes certain that the actual price of crude oil has reached the minimum price defined by the agreement, the OPEC ministerial council will discuss raising the production ceiling in such a way as to guarantee a higher price. According to the agreement, if the ministerial council decides in the future to raise the production ceiling, the increase will be distributed among the member states that have unexploited production potential.

The agreement asserts that if it is proven that an OPEC country or group of countries is unable to meet their production quotas, the unfulfilled part will be distributed among the rest of the member states having unexploited production potential.

The agreement was the result of intensive contacts in which Iraq and Saudi Arabia played a prominent role in guaranteeing its success as well as in creating a new atmosphere of understanding and solidarity among all member states. Conference sources declared that this role produced satisfaction and confidence within OPEC.

The statement defines the OPEC member states' quotas [in millions of barrels] as follows:

Algeria	0.827
Ecuador	0.273
Gabon	0.197
Indonesia	0.374 [figure as received]
Iran	3.140
Iraq	3.140
Kuwait	1.500
Libya	1.233
Nigeria	1.611
Qatar	0.371
Saudi Arabia	5.380
UAE	1.500
Venezuela	1.945

OPEC Chairman Sadek Boussena said at a news conference at the Intercontinental Hotel after reporting the final statement of the conference that the conferees had decided to freeze the OPEC production ceiling until oil prices improved. He noted that if OPEC sees in December that the actual price of crude oil has gone over the OPEC price of $21, OPEC will raise the production ceiling. Otherwise, the ceiling will remain frozen.

On the possibility that the member states would exceed the production quotas, Boussena said that this decision was signed by all the ministers and that these ministers represented their governments. Based on this, the commitment is viewed as a commitment from the governments of OPEC members. The OPEC chairman said: OPEC has the full conviction that all the member states will strictly abide by their production quotas.

Answering a journalist's question on the penalties that OPEC could impose on the states exceeding their production quotas, Boussena said: We have no penalties; the states that opted to abide by this statement have taken on an ethical and political commitment. Hence, the country that exceeds its quota will impose the penalty on itself; it is a tough penalty if we look at it from the ethical and political angles. He added: In addition, we laid down a firm monitoring system. The ministerial monitoring committee and subcommittees are authorized to search for the necessary information on violations, including information from foreign sources. Along this line, the subcommittees report to the ministerial monitoring committee.

The OPEC chairman said: We are certain that with this mechanism, which OPEC sets up for the first time, the organization will be able to control the oil production of member states in accordance with each state's quota. He added that discussions at the coming meeting will deal with figures related to the production ceiling, quotas, and prices without going through the matter of violations.

The OPEC chairman said: In light of this, I can say that OPEC has entered a new stage in its history.

Asked if any of the member states expressed any reservation, Boussena affirmed that no country expressed reservations about the statement. He added: It is true that at the beginning of the meeting there were many viewpoints; however, all views were melded in this statement very swiftly to safeguard OPEC's unity and strength.

Chairman Comments on Outcome

LD2807005290 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 27 Jul 90

[Interview with Sadek Boussena, OPEC chairman and Algerian minister of mines, to station correspondent Hassiba Kachroud; in Geneva on 27 July—recorded]

[Excerpt] [Kachroud] Mr Minister, do you consider today's OPEC agreement to fix the benchmark price at $21 as a victory for OPEC in its price war?

[Boussena] This meeting was a very important one for the organization because, as you remember, we have gone through a very difficult period. Between March and this month we witnessed some difficulties; the price went as low as $13 and $14. Following the initiative taken by most OPEC member countries, a new atmosphere was brought about before the meeting. The organization's meeting was therefore held under better circumstances because the oil prices went up just before the meeting, from $14 to $17 in two years [as heard].

The meeting was scheduled because we believed that the time had come to review the benchmark price, which had been $18 for the past four years. Most countries thought that the time had come to increase the price. There were discussions among countries—some wanted the benchmark price to increase to $25, and others wanted a lower price. We reached a decision, which is a compromise, to fix the price at $21, more than the previous benchmark price, a matter which we consider a positive outcome.

The only thing which remains to be seen is the market's reaction and how it will understand the new reality. [passage omitted]

Saudi Minister Praises Results

LD2807003990 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2205 GMT 27 Jul 90

[Text] Geneva, 27 Jul (SPA)—Hisham Nazir, minister of petroleum and mineral resources and acting minister of planning, praised the efforts exerted by all OPEC ministers to achieve a new agreement for the organization. At a news conference held tonight in Geneva following the signing of the agreement, he said "the importance of this agreement stems from various factors, most important of which is that it enjoys the full commitment of all member countries at the highest political level."

He went on to say "OPEC leaders intervened personally to halt the decline of prices," and confirmed that this decline has damaged all producers alike.

He added: "the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, conducted intensive and continuing contacts before the convening of the Jeddah meeting which paved the way for the (Geneva) meeting". He went on to say: "hence the political importance of this agreement, which differs from the previous agreements," and explained that there are many factors which are featured for the first time in this agreement and define its importance. He summed up those factors as:

First, the agreement enjoys the political support and full commitment of all members countries.

Second, all 13 member countries have signed without reservation the agreement which joins them with one production ceiling and definite quotas.

Third, this agreement links the production ceiling and price in the future in such a way that an increase in either or in both is interlinked.

Fourth, the agreement stipulates that future additions to the ceiling be distributed among the states which have surplus capacity. In addition, the ministerial committee in charge of overseeing the implementation of the agreement is also entrusted with observing whether states are able to produce their quotas so that unused quotas will be redistributed among the states which are capable of benefiting from this.

He went on to say: "But the agreement—at the same time—stipulates a method for watching market prices so that oil will not lose its importance as the primary source of energy and so that consumers will not opt for other, substitute sources"

The minister of petroleum and mineral resources affirmed that there will be stringent control of production and marketing so that the opportunity will be provided for the market to bring up the agreement to the fixed price of $21.00 a barrel.

He added that "a good agreement would lead to good results, and this applies to the new OPEC agreement" noting that the Gulf meeting in Jeddah has paved a great deal of the ground because the meeting this time did not take more than 2 days.

He said: "the level of the new price—namely $21.00 a barrel for benchmark oil—is a price which can be achieved in the market without harming the consumer. Therefore; it will be accepted in various sectors without having an adverse effects on the level of world demand."

In reply to a question about relations inside OPEC, minister Nazir said: "There are no doves and hawks in OPEC. Every point of view put forward is subject to objective debate and consequent arrival at the best results. Each point of view has evidence to support it, but in the end we select what we believe to be the best for all concerned."

At the end of his news conference he expressed thanks to the chairman of he conference, His Excellency Sadek Boussena, for the efforts he made in reconciling the various views, and he said: "His election as chairman of the organization is regarded as a real gain for the organization."

Iraqi Minister Comments

JN2707143090 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1424 GMT 27 Jul 90

[Text] Geneva, 27 Jul (INA)—The Iraqi and Saudi oil ministers declared here today that OPEC states agreed to raise the price of crude oil to $21 per barrel until the end of this year. In statements to journalists, the two ministers said that OPEC will review the ceiling of production, prices, and quotas during the 88th conference in Rabat in December in light of the situation in the international oil market.

Iraqi Minister 'Isam 'Abd-al-Rahim al-Jalabi and Saudi Minister Hisham Nazir concurred that the conference succeeded for the first time in creating a new atmosphere of cooperation and understanding among the OPEC member states.

Algeria

Bendjedid Receives PRC's Qian Qichen

LD2907204790 Algiers Television Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 29 Jul 90

[Text] President Chadli Bendjedid today received at the Presidency Chinese Foreign Minster Qian Qichen, who is paying an official visit to our country. The audience took place in the presence of the foreign minister and the presidential counsellor for diplomatic affairs.

Bendjedid Receives Moroccan Envoy 19 Jul

LD1907163890 Rabat MAP in Arabic 1600 GMT 19 Jul 90

[Excerpt] Algiers, 19 July (MAP)—Mr. Ahmed Reda Guedira, the Moroccan sovereign's adviser, was received at noon today Thursday by the Algerian president, Mr. Chadli Bendjedid, and conveyed to the latter a written message from his brother King Hassan II.

Mr. Ahmed Reda Guedira stated after this meeting, which took place at the Presidential Palace, that the message focused in particular on bilateral and Maghreban relations, and he pointed out that the talks with President Chadli Bendjedid concentrated on this topic. [passage omitted]

Iraqi Presidential Envoy Arrives in Algiers

JN2807125790 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1132 GMT 28 Jul 90

[Text] Algiers, 28 Jul (INA)—'Isam 'Abd-al-Rahim al-Jalabi, oil minister and President Saddam Husayn's envoy to his brother Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid, arrived here today. The presidential envoy is bringing a message to the Algerian president on bilateral relations and regional developments.

Bendjedid Installs New Defense Minister

LD2907204390 Algiers Television Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 29 Jul 90

[Excerpt] President of the Republic Chadli Bendjedid, the commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces, today at the National Defense Ministry chaired the installation of National Defense Minister Maj-Gen. [Major General] Khaled Nezzar. During this ceremony, the president of the Republic referred to the task of the National People's Army within the framework of the current reforms in the country—the task which is in line with the Constitution. [passage omitted]

Bendjedid Announces Assembly Elections in 1991

LD2907203890 Algiers Television Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 29 Jul 90

[Text] The renewal of the People's National Assembly will take place during the first third of next year. This was announced today by President Chadli Bendjedid. The decision—as the president of the Republic said—was taken after lengthy consideration and with the conviction that the political parties will respect the rules of the democratic game. The president of the Republic reaffirmed that this decision translates the will of the people which we respect; but it does not at all mean that the present People's National Assembly does not carry out its task fully. The president of the Republic also said that we are thus giving an opportunity to the people to elect its own representatives freely. However, he stressed that the renewal of the People's National Assembly would not take place unless all conditions for peace and security were satisfied.

Bendjedid Chairs Council of Ministers Meeting

LD2907210790 Algiers Television Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 29 Jul 90

[Text] The Council of Ministers today met under the chairmanship of President of the Republic Chadli Bendjedid. During the meeting, the Council studied a draft law which includes a full pardon for those who committed offenses prior to 23 February 1989 against individuals and properties and following the incidents in which public order was violated and the social protest movements infringed upon the authority of the state. The Council of Ministers ratified this draft law.

Within the said comprehensive pardon law, the Council of Ministers ratified a draft law on compensation to be paid for physical harm done under those same circumstances. The president of the Republic intervened during the discussion and expressed his belief that the ratification of these two draft laws stems from our values and our long-standing aspirations for freedom and social justice, and it aims at bolstering the march of reforms, which prefers the recreation of the political and social dialogue and the legal forms for expressing public freedom based on the spirit of responsibility among citizens, individuals, and groups. He also reaffirmed that instructions which the government had issued in connection with the continued implementation of political and economic reforms began with the ratification of the Constitution in order to build a democratic society and advance economic and social development.

The president of the Republic believes that it has become appropriate to move forward to another phase in establishing the institution of the rule of law and to look into holding legislative elections during the first third of next year. A decision in connection with the advancement of the legislative elections will be made at a later date in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution. He then charged the government with taking all necessary measures to enable citizens to exercise their fundamental right to choose their representatives in the best circumstances.

After that, the president of the Republic moved to another point on the agenda and issued a decision appointing Col. [Colonel] Bechir Lahrach director general of national security and Amar Shouki Jebara as

director general of customs. On the other hand, the Council of Ministers studied the proposal for changes among the provincial governors. The Council of Ministers then studied the amendment of the diplomatic and consular framework, which will be followed by a reassignment of diplomats.

Bendjedid Establishes Higher Information Council

LD2607115690 Algiers APS in English 1048 GMT 26 Jul 90

[Text] Algiers, 26 July (APS)—President Chadli Bendjedid, officially installed yesterday the Higher Council of Information (CSI) composed of 12 members: 6 journalists elected by their peers, the 6 others are media men who were, not very long ago, holding high positions in the press organs. Three of them were appointed by the president of the Republic, while the remaining three were nominated by the chairman of the National Assembly.

Paper Terms Government Reshuffle 'Expected'

LD2607141590 Algiers APS in English 1335 GMT 26 Jul 90

[Text] Algiers, 26 Jul (APS)—The daily "ESH-SHAAB" in a comment devoted to the new reshuffle in [the] Hamrouche government said that this move was expected. It wrote that political observers were not at all surprised by Hamrouche decision who wants to speed up the implementation of reforms. [Words indistinct] considering the political and social transformations which started introducing a new economic system. In a word, the daily goes on, "to set the house in order" without delay.

The most striking change in this reshuffle is the nomination of a minister of defence, a position usually held by the head of state himself in third world countries.

For ESH-SHAAB this initiative shows Algeria's determination to go deep in the reforms.

Another thing, the daily observes, is the appointment of six newcomers who have never served in any government. Beside the abolition of the Industry Ministry which has been added to the Mines Ministry, ESH SHAAB pointed out to the introducing of a Ministry of Research and Technology.

Political Conference

LD2207120490 Algiers APS in English 1010 GMT 22 Jul 90

[Text] A national council of democrats was elected at the end of a national conference held by the Gathering for Culture and Democracy (RCD). The participants also adopted the two reports in charge of the organic, the general policy and a common minimal platform.

Some 1,500 persons from non-political associations took part in this conference besides political officials, historians, representatives from political parties, such as the RCD, the communist party (PAGS), the Social Democratic Party (PSD) and the Popular Association for Unity and Action (APUA).

These interventions stressed the necessity of drawing from this forum structures able to take in charge and to take root democracy in the Algerian society. Proposals also dealt with the setting of a common programme and the presentation of a common candidate to the legislatives, as well as the creation of a commission aiming at gathering the points of view of the Socialist Forces Front (FFS) and the RCD.

Other suggestions also dealt with the separation of the mosque from the political activities, and the emergency of the democrats, to conjugrate their efforts and their actions to safeguard democracy. [sentence as received]

Furthermore, the conference voted a general political motion recommending notably the renewal of the People's National Assembly (APN), the review of the electoral law, a fair access to the public service medias, as well as a number of points relative to the political and cultural questions defending Islam against the ambitions threats seeking power, identity and national personality, and at last women against the weight of prejudices.

The report of the organic commission approved by the majority proposed the setting up of a structure of concertation and action opened for all the independent parties and associations, the creation of a national committee of democrats with extensions in the provinces and communes, as well as three subcommissions in charge of information, the organic and the general means.

It is worth recalling that a number of participants blamed the Salvation Islamic Front (FIS) the abusive use of the mosque as well as the developed speech and certain actions undertaken by this party going against the democratic principles. A number of them recognized that the FIS knew how to invest in the youth and could hold the political initiatives in future if concrete actions of the democrats were not taken immediately.

Ben Bella To Return in September

LD1907140690 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1200 GMT 19 Jul 90

[Text] MDA, the Movement for Democracy in Algieria, this morning held a conference in Algiers. Mohamed Malek sent us this report:

[Begin recording] Ahmed Ben Bella will be back in Algeria next September. This was announced by the Movement for Democracy in Algeria during a news conference held this morning at Essafir Hotel. Djamel Ayadi, the director general of the magazine TRIBUNE D'OCTOBRE and a founding member of the MDA Consultative Committee announced that this return will not be in a clandestine manner. Ben Bella, he said, will return not as president of a political party, but as a militant of the democratic cause and brother of all Algerians among whom he wishes to live

and contribute to the development of democracy in Algeria. We can already say, added Ayadi, that Ben Bella has set himself a priority objective, which is to bring back trust to the Algerians in themselves and between Algerians. [end recording]

The date of the return of Ben Bella to Algeria has not been specified, but it is reported that it will be in early September.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Iraq's Al-Jalabi

LD3007085690 Tripoli JANA in English 0815 GMT 30 Jul 90

[Text] Tripoli, 30 Nasir [July], Jamahiriyah News Agency—The leader of the revolution received yesterday Dr. al-Jalabi, the Iraqi oil minister.

Dr. al-Jalabi handed the leader of the revolution a letter from Saddan Husayn, president of sisterly Iraq.

In his letter, President Husayn reaffirmed that Arab oil-producing countries are conspiring with the U.S. against the interests of the Arab nation through depleting its oil resources at low prices.

Earlier on Saturday, Dr. Al-Jalabi arrived here on a visit to great Al-Jamahiriyah.

Chad Said Trying To 'Poison' Talks' Atmosphere

LD2907092890 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0920 GMT 29 Jul 90

[Text] Tripoli, 29 July, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—JANA learned that the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation yesterday, Saturday, summoned the Chadian charge d'affaires, informing him the method of media campaigns and the statements made by Chadian officials that the Chadian Government has been accustomed to follow before each session of the joint Libyan Arab Chadian Committee proves only one thing. It is the assertion of the desire to poison the atmosphere and shows a lack of genuine political will on the part of the Chadian side to reach a settlement.

While preparations were under way to convene the sixth session of the joint committee, the Chadian foreign minister makes a statement citing ill-founded accusations and attempting to seed doubts on the Libyan stance.

On the other hand, in a bid to create an atmosphere of suspicion and doubt which does not show any good faith or desire for exerting efforts for a peaceful and political solution within the framework of international customs and law, the Chadian news media did not stop featuring interviews and reports which had no foundation.

We, therefore, have the right to ask: How can meetings be convened with such statements and in this atmosphere?

Libya, as we have already announced on many occasions, is determined to find a peaceful settlement to all outstanding issues between the two sisterly countries within the framework of international law and in accordance with the skeleton treaty contracted between the two countries and the OAU resolutions.

Further on al-Qadhdhafi Address to Youth Campers

LD2007172890 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 2315 GMT 29 Jul 90

[Speech by Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi via closed circuit television to members of the Great al-Fatih youth camps on 19 July—recorded]

[Excerpts] First of all, we thank your brothers who supervised this work, the camps, and the managment of them. [passage omitted]

The problem now is whether or not they [Western colonialists] arm outer space. They say: We must control space. On the other hand, we [the Arabs] say: The problem is whether I should join al-Tabligh, al-Takfir wa'l-Hijrah, al-Da'wah, or al-Jihad [names of Islamic fundamentalist groups]. We asked: Is it a jihad [holy war] against the Americans? They said: No, No. We asked: Is it against the Jews in Palestine? They said: No. We asked: Against whom then? They said: Against the Muslims, because all the contemporary Muslims are infidels and we must kill them.

Leave us alone in our suffering. Go and kill the real infidels, the real Jew who is occupying your land, and the American. This is clear. Go and kill him first then come back to us, the suspicious ones, whom you say are not upright Muslims. Why are we first? They said: No. The Jews are good. The Americans are good, and they give us money and support and are the ones who told us to start this call.

Therefore the al-Jihad is coming from America. This is [word indistinct] of the Jihad of the Afghans, and those Afghans are armed by America. Therefore America has become the leader of the Jihad, and it is the one who leads us to Paradise. Very nice, this Islam which comes from the house of Carter! What kind of Islam is this? This is nonsense. If you find among you one who says: al-Da'wah or al-Jihad or al-Takfir or al-Ikhwan [the Muslim Brotherhood], then you should cut off his head and throw it in the street as if you found a wolf, fox, or a scorpion. This is a poison. This is a devil. This is a heretic. This person ruins Islam. In their opinion, all our fasting and prayers will only lead to Hell. They say: the al-Takfir wa'l-Hijrah, al-Tabligh, al-Da'wah, and al-Jihad groups are the only Muslims, the rest should be slayed. Slayed! Where did you get that from? They said we got it from Afghanistan. Did Islam come from Afghanistan, or did it come from the Arabs and then spread to Afghanistan? Are we now going to listen to a non-Arab telling us about our religion? From where did the calls for al-Da'wah, al- Jihad, al-Takfir, and al-Tabligh come? They came from Afghanistan and India.

This is a grave conspiracy against the Arab nation and pan-Arabism aimed at annihilating them so that there will be no Arab unity. This is aimed at keeping us weak, as I told you, so that the Americans, Italians, English, French, and Jews return and colonize us again. This is its aim. The aim is to make pan-Arabism—which could gather the people from the ocean to the Gulf—disappear. They will start by: Where are you from? You say: I am an Arab. No, are you a member of al-Takfir or al-Hijrah [as heard]? Yes, This is the al-Takfir group, that is the Hijrah group; you are al-Tabligh, you are al-Da'wah, you are al-Jihad, you are the Muslim Brotherhood, and you are the Islamic Liberation Party. This way it is not a nation any more! They said: Yes. We want you divided, parties and sects. As for those who divide their religion and break up into sects, thou hast no part in them in the least [Koranic verse].

In Islam, God forbids parties. They are forming parties. This, quite frankly, means that they are against Islam and the Koran. There is no Muslim party membership. How could that be! They said: God's party has failed, and the party of socialism has succeeded. How could you establish a party for God, and make it fail? It is not God who failed. The parties you established in the name of God are forbidden by God. He said do not establish parties in My name. Islam has no parties. They said: God's party. This party of God in the Koran means all the Muslims. This is God's party. The infidels are the Devil's party. They are not concerned with political parties, elections, and poll boxes. Who would you vote for: God's party, the party of [Walid] Junblatt in Lebanon, or the party of Ahmad. I liked Ahmad's program. He will give me a house and a farm, therefore I will vote for Ahmad. Therefore if God came to earth, heaven forbid, Ahmad will succeed. [passage omitted]

After the preparatory school comes secondary education and then higher education. We decided at the people's congresses—the Libyan people decided—that secondary education is the important one, the technical intermediary education. I advise you that from now you have the desire, even without guidance to head for productive work which benefits you as an individual, benefits your family, and benefits your country and nation. Go to technical work at this stage. We need spare parts, people who can repair things and prolong the life of the car, the airplane, the air conditioner, the radio, the watch, the courtyard; ones who can plant, prune, combat agricultural epidemics, and increase agricultural productivity; doctors, and those who generate electricity, pave roads, build utilities and public works, manufacture weapons for us, manufacture powder, radar, fans, and aerials—we need all these. This is the force that scares the enemy. If you now visit some factories, military factories, we will find in them youths who have shaved their hair off and wear overalls. Their morale is high, manufacturing machine guns and spare parts, repairing tanks, and handling missile parts. What is this? Where did they come from? They said they are graduates of the secondary technical schools. [passage omitted]

Those are the people we need. They make the missiles for us. When the missile comes, you find that it consists of nails, springs, circular things, pointed things, things that need filing. This is the missile in the end. It is an issue of propelling—an engine and fuel. Who assembles them? An Israeli so that you fire it at him? An American who will teach you how to hit his bases in Europe? Impossible! You assemble it or else they will hit you with their missiles, and then it is a shame. The satellite, the missile, the plane, the nuclear bomb—who makes them? Not the angels! Sons of nations like you make them. [passage omitted]

You prolong for us man's life, you extend for us the life of the plane, you extend for us the life of the machine. You make for us this and that. Make spare parts for the heart, spare parts for human limbs, and spare parts for cars and planes. Combat for us the fly which the Americans have brought us. Combat the [words indistinct], combat agricultural epidemics and learn about them. See how they are fighting us: (? the sons of a bitch) brought a fly from [the United States of] America and planted it in Libya. How come this fly has by-passed the whole world and has come to Libya? It is very clear: They placed it in the things you import: the fly came in the pipes, in the goods which you import. I talk about this subject for the first time. From now on I will talk about it and expose America. Like [the fly], America created AIDS and spread it throughout the world. It accused Africa and said it came from Africa, when it came in fact from American intelligence, from its factories.

They are the one who manipulate viruses. They tried them on prisoners, and when the prisoners got out, they spread the AIDS virus, the most dangerous disease in the world. America is responsible for this crime. I told you colonialism has no morals. If we are weak, all these diseases come to you; they do not go to the strong. This screw fly about which they are talking: How come it did not pass through Mauritania, Marrakesh, Algiers, Tunis, Sudan, those countries in which the Americans were there, and through Egypt? The Americans are in Egypt, Sudan, and in these [other] countries. They have companies and embassies, while relations between us and them are severed. How did it enter Libya? It avoided Malta, Cyprus, Europe, the Mediterranean, Africa, Asia, the whole world and entered Libya! It was exported intentionally by the Americans! See this latest thing with which they are fighting you—it's not a simple thing! They bring a fly like [words indistinct] and plant it in Libya to destroy their [Libyans'] animals. Let one of the Muslim brothers come and cure the sheep affected by this fly. He sits there in America supporting the Americans who fight us this way. Let the al-Takfir wa'l-hijrah [Society of Repudiation and Renunciation] come and cure for us the sheep affected by the screw fly. Or let them come and treat the trees affected by the stem driller [al-haffar al-saq]. If we look even into all plant diseases, we find that America, year after year, has been invading us. They brought a million rats to Egypt in order to destroy it. And indeed they destroyed its crop until it

became dependent on American wheat. This came following Sadat and the open-door policy. They brought (?twelve) million [rats] and placed them in pipes and planted them in Egypt. A disaster! Egypt is now unable to achieve self-sufficiency in crops because these rats destroy crops. [passage omitted]

Bahrain

Information Minister Meets Indian Counterpart

JN2807180190 Manama WAKH in English 1530 GMT 28 Jul 90

[Text] Manama, July 28 (GNA)—Bahraini Information Minister Tariq 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Mu'ayyad conferred in Manama today with Indian Minister of Information, Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs P. Upendra, currently visiting Bahrain.

During the meeting, the Bahraini minister affirmed the importance of boosting existing good relations, mainly in the information aspects.

From his side, the Indian minister hoped that the visit would contribute in further strengthening cultural and information cooperation between the two countries.

The two sides meeting exchanging programmes and training in the field of engineering as well as exchanging technical expertise [sentence as received].

Present were Assistant Information Under Secretary for Radio and Television Dr. Hala Ahmad al-'Umran, Assistant Under Secretary for Tourism and Archaeology Shaykh Rashid Bin-Khalifah Al Khalifah, Indian Information Under Secretary K. Varden [name as received] and Indian ambassador to Bahrain T. Varma [name as received].

Delivers Singh Message to Amir

JN2907084790 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0800 GMT 29 Jul 90

[Excerpt] Manama, 29 Jul (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Ibn-Salman Al Khalifah, amir of the State of Bahrain, has received a written message from Indian Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh on world issues of common interest, particularly peace efforts in the Middle East and the Indian subcontinent, and ways to develop and enhance bilateral ties in various fields.

Parvathaneni Upendra, Indian minister of information and minister of parliamentary affairs, conveyed the message when he met with the Bahraini amir today. [passage omitted]

Kuwait

Oil Minister Views Iraq, OPEC Issues

LD3007073690 Kuwait KUNA in English 0706 GMT 30 Jul 90

[Text] London, July 30 (KUNA)—The oil minister of Kuwait, Dr. Rashid Salim al-'Amiri said that Kuwait was committed to abiding by its quota allotted by the agreement reached by the thirteen OPEC oil ministers in Geneva on Friday.

In an interview published Monday in the London-based Arabic daily, 'AL-HAYAT,' al-'Amiri expressed his satisfaction with the agreement reached and praised the spirit of cooperation and understanding which reigned between member states.

Al-'Amiri said that though Kuwait's financial needs are high and the country is facing a deficit, until OPEC reviewed the present agreement, Kuwait would respect its quota of 1.5 million barrels per day.

Asked whether the agreement reached on Friday will ease the political "conflict" between Kuwait and Iraq, al-'Amiri said "I do not call it a conflict, but a misunderstanding between brothers and neighbours who have lived in amicability for a long time."

"I hope that with time it will pass. The agreement reached by OPEC will help in erasing a lot of the problems which developed in the region as a result of demands by countries relating to production and price," he observed.

More importantly, al-'Amiri noted, that both Kuwait and Iraq (?remain) as they were in the past, "as two cooperating neighbours tied by Arab nationalism, brotherhood, and Islam."

He denied that Kuwait was extracting oil beyond its territory, and stressed: "Kuwait produces only from its territory, and if there is any misunderstanding, this should be resolved through the formation of a joint panel to discuss the issue."

Asked as to whether Kuwait had made a "big compromise," the minister maintained, "There is no doubt...by Kuwait not asking for an increase in quota, it made a compromise. Other states made compromises also," he added.

Responding to a question on whether he had new plans as he was just newly appointed, al-'Amiri indicated that as yet, not enough time had gone by since his appointment to allow for a thorough evaluation.

Commenting on price tendencies in the future, the Kuwaiti oil minister said that it was difficult to foresee just yet how price will behave, but he hoped, if quotas were respected, that oil prices would increase and reach the reference price of 21 dollars.

Amir Receives Saudi Foreign Minister

LD2807103190 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 28 Jul 90

[Text] At 1230 today His Highness the Amir received the foreign minister of fraternal Saudi Arabia, His Royal Highness prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, who conveyed to his highness a message from his brother the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, king of fraternal Saudi Arabia.

The meeting was attended by the deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad

al-Jabir Al Sabah; the under secretary at the foreign ministry, Sulayman Majid al-Shahin; and the Saudi Ambassador to Kuwait.

Cabinet Voices 'Sincere Desire' for Useful Talks

LD2907132990 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1255 GMT 29 Jul 90

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 29 Jul (KUNA)—The Kuwaiti cabinet expressed today its sincere desire to make the expected meeting between Iraq and Kuwait a successful one. The cabinet expressed the wish that this meeting will be a step toward reaching a final and just solution to all pending problems and issues between the two countries.

The minister of state for cabinet affairs, Dr. 'Abd-al-Rahman al- 'Awadi, said following the routine weekly meeting chaired by His Highness Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim Al Sabah, the heir apparent and prime minister, that the cabinet reviewed the intensive Arab effort and intiatives aimed at containing this crisis and helping find the appropriate means to settle the issue in the interest of both countries.

Dr. al-'Awadi said that his highness the heir apparent and prime minister informed the cabinet about the outcome of the ongoing contacts between his highness the amir and his brother Arab leaders so as to contain the crisis and find a solution to the Kuwaiti-Iraqi dispute. [passage omitted]

Dr. al-'Awadi said: "The cabinet expressed Kuwait's gratitude and appreciation to the leaders of the fraternal Arab countries for their understanding of the Kuwaiti stance; their commitment to settling the dispute with Iraq through fraternal dialogue; and their firm rejection of all forms of pressure, threats and use of force in settling the disputes between brothers."

He added: "The cabinet expressed special appreciation of the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz of Saudi Arabia, and His Excellency President Husni Mubarak of Egypt, for their good offices which stemmed from their true belief in Arab solidarity and their sincere commitment to higher pan-Arab interests. These good offices have paved the way for the fraternal meeting between Kuwait and Iraq, which will be held in fraternal Saudi Arabia, to discuss the current crisis under the auspices of fraternal Saudi Arabia and Egypt."

The minister of state for cabinet affairs went on to stress: "As it announces its welcome for the proposed meeting in response to the good offices of the two sisters [Saudi Arabia and Egypt], because of its belief in its pan-Arab responsibility, and because of its commitment to keeping the dispute within the Arab family and to dealing with it in a calm objective way, Kuwait is looking forward with an open heart to the proposed meeting, at which Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim Al Sabah, heir apparent and prime minister, will preside over the Kuwaiti side. Kuwait stresses its sincere wish that the meeting will succeed; it hopes that, with the blessings and monitoring of the custodian of the two holy mosques and President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, this meeting will be a step forward toward a final solution to all the pending problems and issues between Kuwait and Iraq in a way that will secure the national sovereignty and legitimate rights of both countries on the basis of goodneighborliness and in line with Arab and international treaties and traditions. Kuwait hopes the meeting will restore normality to the two countries' fraternal relations; spare the Arab nation more divisions and disintegration; contribute to consolidating the pillars of security in the region of its stability; spare the region from foreign intervention; consolidate the Arab solidarity and unity; and strengthen the Arab power in facing up to the real challenges to pan-Arab security." [passage omitted]

Editorial Urges Solution to Iraq Dispute

JN2907182090 Kuwait AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 29 Jul 90 p 1

[Editorial: "The Problem—Once and For All"]

[Text] It is regrettable that the Jeddah meeting, which was supposed to be held yesterday, was not held. It seems that some issues need to be defined before the expected meeting takes place. This is why contacts resumed yesterday in addition to the Saudi foreign minister's visit to Kuwait and Baghdad. This visit constitutes a further effort by the brothers in Egypt and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to bring the two sides' closer together.

We do not know exactly what the remaining obstacles are to the meeting. However, what we do know and believe is that it is enough that the problem has been submitted for discussion, and that it should be resolved in a comprehensive manner and through a fraternal logic. In addition to this, and so long as the brothers have moved and succeeded in containing the problem and paving the way for dialogue as the only way to reach a solution, what is required, in our opinion, is to discuss all aspects of the problem within the framework of negotiations that should start and not end before reaching a final solution to the issues of the demarcation of borders, oil, and debts. This is because postponing any of the clauses of this indivisible whole of the problem would mean maintaining elements that would disrupt relations which we want to be good, firm, and deep.

Perhaps, the experience, with whose repercussions we are still dealing with, proves the pressing need to discuss a full and comprehensive solution to avoid the emergence of any virus that would recontaminate the atmosphere and relations.

For our part, we always say that if Iraq wants, God forbid, to abandon us, we will not abandon it, because the brother cannot abandon his brother under any circumstances. However, because we are strongly concerned about our ties with this brother, we call on him to sit at the negotiating table and we should not leave before reaching a final decision on both sides' rights.

If we agree there is a problem, then it is necessary, natural, and in the interest of both brothers to uproot this problem. This is the judgment of reason and brotherhood. As long as it is so, then let us go to the meeting without leaving an Achilles' heel or any point of weakness in our joint relations that would disrupt them whenever the wind blows or new circumstances emerge.

In this spirit, which is a pure pan-Arab spirit, we call on the two sides to join the dialogue of the dear ones, the equals, and the brothers, who are neither superior nor inferior to one another. Based on this, and in this spirit, we should go to the meeting to confirm to the world our strong Arab affiliation and to emphasize our legitimate rights and sovereignty over our resources and decisionmaking. Otherwise, how can we face this world or our great grandfathers, who left with us their glories and identity as a legacy worthy of them and of the name we carry.

'Arafat Arrives to 'Calm Tension'

LD2907082790 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0728 GMT 29 Jul 90

[Excerpts] The president of the state of Palestine, Mr. Yasir 'Arafat, arrived in Kuwait at dawn to visit his brother the amir of the country, His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad Al Sabah. [passage omitted]

In a statement to KUNA on his arrival, president 'Arafat stated that "(?The aim of) his visit is to calm the tension between brothers in Kuwait and Iraq, and deploy a modest and sincere effort alongside other efforts made by brothers Arab leaders."

He added, this is not the first time that I undertake such a duty. He pointed to a number of similar missions "that took place during previous incidents and during which I carried out my duty according to my feelings, belief and pan-Arabism." He said, "I am optimistic about the outcome of these efforts."

With regard to [words indistinct] the suspended U.S.-Palestinian dialogue, and whether this dialogue will be resumed within the framework of the U.S. conditions, president 'Arafat indicated that he previously stated the PLO's position in all frankness regarding this issue during the recent meeting of the Arab League ministerial council in Tunis recently. He stressed that "we have a position which we will not change."

Concerning the announcement that certain U.S.-Israeli efforts are being made for holding a peace conference in Geneva without the participation of the Palestinians, the Palestinian president said that such ideas and plans are being circulated and made by the prime minister of the enemy, Yitzhaq Shamir, who wants to establish peace with the Arabs without the participation of the Palestinians.

He wondered: "Could there be peace or a solution in the region without the Palestinians? They tried this way in the past. Did they achieve what they desired?"

Today president Yasir 'Arafat will meet the Kuwaiti amir, the heir apparent and prime minister, Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim Al Sabah, and Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir Al Sabah.

'Optimistic' on Iraq-Kuwait Ties

LD2907171890 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1546 GMT 29 Jul 90

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 29 Jul, (KUNA)—Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat stressed that his visit to Kuwait was "positive and constructive", and that his talks with his highness the amir were "positive and fruitful, especially the obvious and firm interest shown by his highness in what is happening in our occupied territories." This came in a statement made by president 'Arafat to journalists prior to his departure from Kuwait at the end of a one-day visit. [passage omitted]

The Palestinian president said he discussed with his highness the amir the issue of the Soviet Jews emigrating to occupied Palestine and the dangers it constitutes not only for Palestine but for the whole Arab nation. Other issues facing the Arab nations and the means to consolidate relations between brotherly countries were also discussed.

He said: "We are optimistic about the meetings that will take place between brothers in Iraq and Kuwait in Jeddah in a few days." He added that he continued his talks with His Highness Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim Al Sabah, heir apparent and chairman of the Council of Ministers, and expressed hope that this "sincere and [word indistinct] effort" and those exerted by the brother Arab leaders will result in "putting an end to the crisis that has tarnished relations between brothers." He also said "I am optimistic about the response I received during this visit, and I shall come back, God willing." [passage omitted]

Oman

Government 'Blesses' New OPEC Agreement

JN2807100090 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0915 GMT 28 Jul 90

[Text] Muscat, 28 Jul (WAKH)—Omani Petroleum and Minerals Minister Sa'id Bin-Ahmad al-Shanfari has announced that the Omani Government blesses all the measures and efforts that contributed to the new OPEC agreement, according to which the production ceiling of 22.5 million barrels per day is maintained. In a statement to the OMANI NEWS AGENCY today, the Omani minister asserted that this agreement will help to get rid of the oil reserve surplus in the world, and consequently, the oil prices will improve in the world market. He added that the agreement will serve the interests of both the producers and consumers alike.

The minister affirmed that the Omani Government reiterates its continued support for all efforts aimed at achieving stability in the oil market. The Omani Government also urges the non-OPEC countries to cooperate with OPEC in the interest of producers and consumers.

Saudi Arabia

Iraqi-Kuwaiti Negotiations Scheduled

INA Reports Delay

JN2907105090 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1025 GMT 29 Jul 90

[Text] Baghdad, 29 Jul (INA)—INA has learned the following:

According to what was agreed upon by Presidents Saddam Husayn and Muhammad Husni Mubarak, the first meeting between Iraq and Kuwait was scheduled to take place in Jeddah on Saturday or today, Sunday, and after that, meetings would be resumed in Baghdad, in order to reach a solution to the issues Iraq raised in the memorandum it submitted to the Arab League.

The meeting, however, did not take place on Saturday. It seems that it has not taken place today, Sunday, and might not take place this week. At any rate, Iraq has not asked for a postponement of the meeting; perhaps the cause for the delay lies with Kuwait, for reasons that we do not know.

Reason for Delay Cited

JN2907180690 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 29 Jul 90

[Mustafa Bakri dispatch from Cairo]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] It was learned in Cairo today that Iraq set no preconditions for holding the protocol meeting in Jeddah and that one of the primary causes of postponing the meeting scheduled for today was that Kuwait believed the protocol meeting should be replaced by a meeting that would directly address substantive issues that form the bone of contention between the two countries.

Date Finalized

LD2907191790 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1845 GMT 29 Jul 90

[Text] Jeddah, 29 Jul (SPA)—A responsible source has made the following statement to SPA:

Due to the agreement of the two sisterly countries, the Iraqi Republic and the State of Kuwait, to hold a bilateral meeting to discuss the issues of mutual interest, it has been decided to hold the aforementioned meeting in the city of Jeddah in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia next Tuesday, 31 July 1990, God willing.

The source added: It is also expected that the Iraqi delegation will be led by 'Izzat Ibrahim, the vice chairman of the Revolution Command Council, and the Kuwaiti delegation by his Highness Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim Al Sabah, the heir apparent and chairman of the Council of Ministers.

The source concluded its statement saying: The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, under the leadership of the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, while renewing its welcome to meet the brothers on its territory, is looking forward with great hopes that the spirit of cordiality will prevail over the atmosphere of the awaited brotherly meeting towards the attainment of good for the two brotherly countries and peoples.

Statement Issued

LD2707190290 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1800 GMT 27 Jul 90

[Text] Jeddah, 27 Jul (SPA)—A responsible source has made the following statement to SPA:

As a result of the fraternal efforts exerted by the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud to contain the casual differences between the brothers, when he contacted his brothers, His Excellency President Saddam Husyan and His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad Al Sabah, in the first hours of the dispute to calm the situation, and as a result of the worthy efforts which His Excellency President Husni Mubarak continued in this direction, it was decided that a bilateral meeting should be held between delegations of Kuwait and Iraq in the coming few days in Jeddah to discuss points of view and to contain the causes of the dispute by means of cordial dialogue and the same, well-known, high fraternal spirit of the leaderships of the two countries, which is based on cooperation, understanding and good-neighborliness.

The Government of Saudi Arabia, led by the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, while welcoming the hosting of this important fraternal meeting on its territory, is pleased to express its deep satisfaction at and appreciation of the noble response of the brothers in Iraq and Kuwait, and would like to thank the Arab leaders who, in this context, have contributed to the efforts aimed at the unity of the common action on the road of solidarity, and toward the desired objective.

King Fahd Sends Message to Iraqi President

LD2807172990 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1700 GMT 28 Jul 90

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Jul (SPA)—King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, has sent a oral message to his brother His Excellency President Saddam Husayn, president of the Republic of Iraq. The message was conveyed by His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister, when he was received by the Iraqi president today.

The meeting was attended by Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

United Arab Emirates

Editorial Lauds New OPEC Agreement, Unity

JN2807192290 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 28 Jul 90 p 1

[Editorial]

[Text] Through patience and wisdom, OPEC was able to overcome differences among its members, and to adopt criteria that takes all sides' interests into consideration, maintains the organization's unity and cohesion, and shows it once again as a united, cohesive, and strong force in the international oil market. The United Arab Emirates [UAE] is pleased to have played a great and effective role in reaching this result. His Highness Shaykh Zayid Ibn-Sultan Al Nuhayyan has given instructions to drop UAE oil production to 1.5 million barrels per day. This level is less than the quota it officially deserves. So, this has paved the way for OPEC to reach a collective agreement on the production quotas for the first time since the March 1983 agreement.

The collective agreement reached yesterday is a major turning point in the organization's policy that moves it from the method of striving to obtain a fair quota in the international oil market to the policy of increasing prices through the control of production. The OPEC member states, whose representatives met in an atmosphere of optimism, and who were unanimous that the UAE decision was one of the most important causes for that optimism, were able to reach an agreement when the interests of all the member states dominated the meetings. Thus, the organization's unity was maintained and the interests of all sides were met at the same time.

In order to guarantee the success of this new policy, it was necessary to adopt a strict position on the question of controlling production quotas of the member states. This is why the organization decided to form two committees of all its members to control production in all the member states according to their geographical locations, and to submit monthly reports to the organization's main control committee.

The agreement was the fruit of an intensified study by the organization of the oil market and of the possibility of future demands for OPEC oil. The agreement has also reflected the organizations' endeavor to guarantee the largest possible revenues for its member states' oil resources in light of several factors that enabled the West to obtain cheap oil in return for expensive commodities that it exports to the oil countries. Congratulations to OPEC on its agreement, unity, and cohesion.

Yemen

Salih, Al-Bid Chair YSP-GPC Joint Meeting

JN2907183590 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 29 Jul 90

[Text] A joint meeting was held this evening between the General Committee of the General People's Congress [GPC] and the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] Political Bureau under brothers Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, Presidential Council chairman and GPC secretary general, and 'Ali Salim al-Bid, Presidential Council vice chairman and secretary general of the YSP Central Committee.

The meeting discussed national issues and bolstering ties between the YSP and the GPC. It also discussed the practical steps to implement the GPC-YSP joint political action agreement to strengthen their role in protecting Yemeni unity, guarantee the continued exercise of democratic political action in our people's life, and act together to expand joint activity that aims to score further achievements for our people, entrench their national unity, and reinforce the democratic and development march to achieve all the objectives of the Yemeni revolution and our people's aspirations in freedom, justice, and progress.

Salih Receives Kuwaiti Amir's Call 28 Jul

JN2807201090 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 28 Jul 90

[Text] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, Presidential Council chairman, has received a telephone call from his brother His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad Al Sabah, the amir of Kuwait, who briefed the brother president on latest developments in the region and the Arab arena.

Ne'eman's Chemical Weapons 'Threats' Cited

JN2807062590 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 0300 GMT 28 Jul 90

[Text] The Zionist entity has renewed its aggressive threats against Iraq. This time it threatened to use chemical weapons against Iraq. Zionist Science [and Technology] Minister Yuval Ne'eman announced in statements yesterday that the Zionist entity possesses chemical weapons to launch such an attack on Iraq. The Zionist official disclosed that the Zionist entity has the means to plan and launch a chemical attack against Iraq.

These threats come within the framework of the hostile campaigns launched by the imperialist and Zionist circles against Iraq because of its national and pan-Arab stances.

The Zionist science minister, who is known for his hardline stands, is also in charge of the space research program. He held ranking posts in the intelligence and arms production fields in the old government.

Foreign Ministry Reacts

JN2907090890 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0840 GMT 29 Jul 90

[Text] Baghdad, 29 Jul (INA)—Reacting to the statement made by Zionist Science Minister Yuval Ne'eman, a spokesman for the Foreign Ministry has stated the following: The statement made by Zionist Science Minister Yuval Ne'eman to the effect that Israel has the capability to use chemical weapons has not surprised us, because all pieces of evidence show that the Zionist entity possesses all types of mass destruction weapons, be they nuclear, chemical, biological, or other types.

The attempts made by officials in the Zionist entity to disavow the abovementioned statement or to impose a news blackout on the subject are useless, as the statement is clear. Besides, the Zionist minister is occupying a position that enables him to know what weapons his government possesses, particularly considering that he was the chief scientist at the Zionist Ministry of Defense.

The question that immediately comes to mind is U.S. and Western silence in general over this statement at a time when U.S. and Western quarters have launched fierce campaigns against Iraq and other states that are arming themselves for purposes of self-defense.

U.S. and Western silence is another piece of evidence showing their double standards in the Middle East with a policy that seeks to make the Zionist entity the dominant power in the region and persistently tries to divest Arabs of the legitimate means of self- defense built to defend themselves and their interests in the face of aggression and Zionist ambitions.

AL-QADISIYAH Cited

JN3007082190 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0530 GMT 30 Jul 90

[Text] Baghdad, 30 Jul (INA)—AL-QADISIYAH has denounced the blatant Zionist threats against Iraq. The Iraqi newspaper says: We would like to remind the whole world that Iraqi retaliation to any aggression cannot be imagined by Zionism or those who are planning it.

In today's editorial, AL-QADISIYAH stresses that Iraq will bring double retaliation on the Zionist circles and their allies if the Zionist entity embarks on any aggressive act. We reiterate our determination to use all our legitimate methods to defend ourselves against any Zionist aggression.

AL-QADISIYAH says: If the Zionist entity, Western circles, and the United States want to prepare for a new Zionist aggression, they must realize that we will not relinquish our principles which we have declared with regard to defending Iraq and the Arab nation from any aggression.

AL-QADISIYAH adds: We are committed to confronting any Zionist aggression regardless of the type, size, or threats launched by the Zionist entity or the person who makes the threats as long as these threats represent a clear and candid hostility through which the Zionist entity tries to achieve its expansionist objectives under the sponsorship of world Zionism.

The Iraqi newspaper notes the frank threat announced a few days ago by Zionist Science [and Technology] Minister Yuval Ne'eman to use chemical weapons against Iraq. The paper says: This was not the first threat of its kind announced by a Zionist official against Iraq; it was one of a long series of threats that has become a behavior pattern of the Zionist war government not just against Iraq but against the Arab nation.

AL-QADISIYAH says: Imperialist circles are remaining silent on the practical threats inflicted daily on the heroes of the intifadah in terms of killing, torture, arrests, and looting. This affirms that U.S. and Western circles have given the Zionist minister the green light to attack Iraq by asserting that the Zionist entity has the means to plan and launch a chemical attack against Iraq.

The Iraqi newspaper asks: Why has the senior Zionist official made this clear and frank threat after U.S. and Western circles launched their anti-Iraq media campaign? The newspaper asserts that this can be explained by one thing only; namely, the Zionist entity is now preparing to launch an attack on Iraq under U.S. tutelage and patronage. This Zionist threat coincides with the U.S. Congressional resolutions calling for economic sanctions on Iraq at a time when the Bush government summons the enemy war minister to discuss the developments in the region.

AL-QADISIYAH says: In light of all this, we conclude that the Zionist entity is determined to launch an attack

on Iraq with prior planning and agreements. This explains the Western and U.S. media's abstention from comments on the statement, which represents a new phenomenon in creating tension in the region in anticipation of a new Zionist aggression against the Arab nation.

The Iraqi newspaper recalled President Saddam Husayn's announcement on 2 April with regard to retaliation against any Zionist aggression on Iraq and his excellency's affirmation at the popular Islamic conference on responding to any Zionist attack against any Arab country.

Assembly Reacts to U.S. Sanctions Resolution

JN2807131090 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1202 GMT 28 Jul 90

[Text] Reacting to the U.S. Congress resolution, the National Assembly speaker made the following statement: We usually value the opinion of someone who seeks our friendship or someone who wants to know the facts as they are. We do not attach any value or weight to those who are moved by Zionism through its influence, funds, tendentious propaganda, and its overt and covert threats. Hence, we announce on behalf of the representatives of the Iraqi people our belittlement of those who were led by Zionism, or those who were compelled out of fear of its influence to pass a resolution by a majority in the U.S. Congress imposing economic sanctions on Iraq.

While hearing of the news of this decision, which lacks the most basic components or elements of an objective resolution, we would like to announce that we are too self-respecting to establish economic relations with anyone who does not have a vested interest in maintaining economic ties with us. Besides, we view anyone who underestimates our status as the smallest, most despicable creature.

At the same time, we would like to announce that we would like to establish balanced ties with the United States—ties based on mutual respect for the positions of the two sides, as long as no harm is inflicted on the interests of the other side, and also on the basis of mutual respect for the choices of each side under all circumstances and conditions.

However, we will not chase after any relations with anyone, whoever it may be. We would also like to voice our appreciation for the minority who opposed the resolution, and to tell them: You actually represent the real interests of the U.S. people—the interests which are not affected by Zionism and its evil and aggressive purposes. At any rate, we are always ready to hold a dialogue with anyone who seeks to know the facts as they are, so that he can know them for himself. Afterward, he is free to take whatever positions he chooses. We would like to bring glad tidings to the minority which opposed this bad and silly resolution, telling them they will see the future vindicate their opinion. Those with preconceived notions will be exposed, and their evil outburst will become clearer before the U.S. people.

King Husayn Arrives in Baghdad 29 Jul

Met by Saddam

JN2907122490 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1200 GMT 29 Jul 90

[Excerpt] His Majesty King Husayn Ibn-Talal of Jordan arrived in Baghdad today on an official visit to Iraq. His majesty was accorded an official reception. At the head of those who received his majesty at the airport was President Saddam Husayn. [passage omitted]

Holds Talks With President

JN2907201190 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1954 GMT 29 Jul 90

[Text] Baghdad, 29 Jul (INA)—President Saddam Husayn and His Majesty King Husayn Ibn-Talal held a round of talks today, during which they discussed the strong relations between the two fraternal countries and means of promoting them. They also discussed the Arab situation and the latest developments in the Arab region.

The talks were attended on the Iraqi side by Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council [RCC] member and first deputy prime minister; Tariq 'Aziz, RCC member, deputy prime minister, and foreign minister; Sa'dun Hammadi, deputy prime minister; and Latif Nusayyif Jasim, minister of culture and information. The talks were attended on the Jordanian side by 'Adnan Abu-'Awdah, political adviser to His Majesty King Husayn Ibn-Talal.

President Saddam Husayn hosted a special dinner banquet in honor of His Majesty King Husayn Ibn-Talal. Members of the two delegations and Industry and Military Industrialization Minister Husayn Kamil Hasan attended the banquet.

Jordan's Badran, Al-Qasim Arrive

JN2907201390 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 2000 GMT 29 Jul 90

[Text] Jordanian Prime Minister Mudar Badran arrived in Baghdad this evening. On hand to welcome him at the airport were Taha Yasin Ramadan, member of the Revolution Command Council and first deputy prime minister, Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and the Jordanian charge d'affaires in Baghdad. Badran is accompanied by Marwan al-Qasim, Jordanian deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

Concludes Visit 30 Jul

JN3007110390 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1050 GMT 30 Jul 90

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 30 Jul (INA)—His Majesty King Husayn Ibn-Talal of Jordan left Baghdad today after a one-day visit to Iraq. [passage omitted]

Saddam Husayn Meets With Saudi Foreign Minister

JN2807105590 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1047 GMT 28 Jul 90

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Jul (INA)—President Saddam Husayn today received Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal. Prince al-Faysal delivered to the president an oral message from his brother King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques.

Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, attended the meeting.

Oil Minister on Results of OPEC Meeting

JN2707190490 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1740 GMT 27 Jul 90

[Text] Geneva, 27 Jul (INA)—Iraqi Oil Minister 'Isam 'Abd-al-Rahim al-Jalabi has said the OPEC agreement to raise oil prices and fix a ceiling for oil production and quotas has restored OPEC's cohesion and guaranteed the legitimate and just rights of the OPEC member states.

In a statement to the INA correspondent in Geneva this evening, the oil minister said the agreement that OPEC reached today can be described as historic. He added that it came as a result of intensive discussions during which Iraq and Saudi Arabia played an important and successful role, creating a new atmosphere of understanding and solidarity among all member states.

He also said the agreement, which was unanimously approved by the member states without reservation, is a decisive step in correcting the world oil market, which underwent a sharp decline in prices during the first half of this year. He added that the agreement is viewed as the beginning of a new march to stabilize the oil market and secure a fair price for this commodity which is vital for the world economy.

The oil minister also said the OPEC cartel's minimum price, which was raised under this agreement to $21 per barrel, is a new starting point designed to achieve OPEC's goal to raise oil prices to levels reflecting the importance of the oil-producing countries.

The oil minister then praised the serious and open atmosphere that prevailed at the ministerial meeting on 26 and 27 July.

An INA report from Geneva said the day before yesterday that the Iraqi delegation was the focus of attention of all the news men and journalists who covered the OPEC meeting. The report said that the Iraqi oil minister was given more attention than any other minister.

The report also stated that the historic speech that President Saddam Husayn delivered on 17 July, which contains principles and bases for stabilizing the oil market and preserving the rights of the oil-exporting countries, was a historic initiative in terms of the international oil industry and OPEC's role in achieving the goals that prompted the establishment of OPEC in Baghdad in 1960.

Newspapers Stress Priorities With Kuwait

AL-JUMHURIYAH 28 Jul

JN2807072390 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0540 GMT 28 Jul 90

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Jul (INA)—The newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH has stressed that the Jeddah meeting between Iraq and Kuwait should be a serious one aimed at responding to Iraq's legitimate rights.

In an editorial today, the paper said:

A meeting is scheduled to take place in Jeddah today between Iraq, represented by Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Kuwait, represented by its prime minister.

However, this meeting will be a preliminary, protocol meeting to be followed by another meeting in Baghdad to continue the talks, as has been agreed upon through Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak.

AL-JUMHURIYAH added: However, we must emphasize an essential point; namely, that Iraq demands legitimate, evident rights. It is claiming its territory that has been infiltrated, and on which military and oil installations as well as police posts and farms have been established. One such area is the al-Rumaylah oil filed, whose Iraqi character and name are well known. Iraq is also demanding back the revenues of the oil extracted from these areas during the period they were taken.

The paper continues: We clearly say that whoever comes to meet the Iraqi side—either in Jeddah or here in Baghdad—must be prepared to erase the harm and the aggression against Iraq, and ready to respond to Iraq's legitimate rights which have already been noted and explained several times over the past few days. Therefore, what is required is that the meeting with the Iraqi side be serious and not be designed to allay anger, suspend pertinent issues, and bury Iraqi rights under the rubble of postponements and delays.

The paper noted that Iraq, which agreed to this meeting in appreciation of the brotherly efforts exerted by the Arab kings and presidents, particularly President Muhammad Husni Mubarak who visited Iraq recently, does not want this to be just another in a series of old meetings that are rightly described as impotent. Iraq wants this meeting to be decisive and fruitful, but it will

not be so unless the harm done to Iraq is removed and Iraq's legitimate rights are addressed.

Concluding its editorial, the paper said: Only then will we be able to express together our appreciation for the Arab efforts exerted by the Arab heads of state, end a chronic problem, right wrongs, restore rights to their owners, and spare this vital and sensitive region the evil of foreign intervention, and destroy the dreams of those who fish in muddy waters.

AL-THAWRAH 28 Jul

JN2807113890 Baghdad INA in English 0945 GMT 28 Jul 90

[Text] Baghdad, July 28 INA—AL-THAWRAH daily of Baghdad for today confirmed that Iraq did not resort to threatening and extortion but had demanded for its legitimate clear rights and frankly expounded volume of the harm afflicted on it and the aggression on it.

In its editorial for today the paper has said that when Iraq responded to the noble brotherly efforts exerted by the Arab kings and presidents and accepted to hold a meeting of a protocol stamp in Jeddah between the Iraqi Deputy Chairman of the Revolution Command Council Mr 'Izzat Ibrahim and the Kuwaiti prime minister which is to be followed by another meeting between them in Baghdad to continue the talks, it has behaved in line with its pan-Arab theory and obligation and affirmed once more its deep keenness on the brotherly relations and the high national interests and, on the other hand asserted and embodied its belief that the way of dialogue and understanding and coordination is the best style of solving the pending problems between the two parties.

The paper has maintained saying that Iraq has not resorted to extortion and threatening but demanded its legitimate and clear rights and are the facts and documents and overpowering realities that manifest the extent of harm that befell Iraq at the time when it has been exposed to the most ferocious and dangerous imperialist and Zionist threat. [sentence as received]

The daily added that it was no longer a secret that a drop of one dollar in the price of oil would lead to a loss one billion dollars sustained by Iraq. And this year the price declined many times less than the price of 18 dollars due to the policy of the Governments of Kuwait and the Emirates which meant Iraq's loss of many billion dollars when its suffering a financial strait resulted from costs of the legitimate defence of its land, security and sanctities and the Arabs land, security and sanctities throughout eight years.

The paper has further clarified that since 1980, during the circumstances of the war the Kuwaiti Government installed oil installations in the southern part of Iraqi al-Rumaylah oilfields and began drawing oil from it and thus flooding the world market with oil which part of it was that it was drawing from Iraqi al-Rumaylah oilfield. Value of the oil that the Kuwaiti Government had drawn from the al-Rumaylah field only by this method, calculated by the realized prices is amounted at 2400 billion dollars.

The paper added that in addition to that Kuwait carried out excesses on Iraq's territories and its other oilfields while Iraq was preoccupied in the war throughout eight years.

Kuwait had been gradually creeping over the Iraqi territories and building outposts, establishing farms and erecting military and oil installations on them. At that time Iraq overlooked that as it was fighting the battle of defending the entire Arab land and the Arab national security.

AL-THAWRAH daily further added that during the war various aid was given to Iraq from its brothers but had been stopped since 1982, and despite the littleness of those aids measured to the high costs sustained by the Iraqi economy and the Iraqi people who had offered rivers of blood in defence of the Arab national sovereignty and security, the major part of that aid was still registered as debt on Iraq, including what Kuwait had offered, which refuses to write off that debt.

The paper has further said that surely to preserve the brotherhood and abide by the values and principles of the Arab solidarity would necessitate the response to the legitimate and documented rights of Iraq in full away from the narrow and egotistic vision in dealing. It is particularly [as received] that Iraq had always been behaving according to the sound national concepts and confirmed its keenness on the brotherly relations in its dealing with all brothers and it is quite enough that the grinding war it had fought was not merely in defence of its sovereignty, land and security but also in defence of the eastern gate of the Arab homeland and the entire Arab homeland, particularly the Gulf Area.

The daily has further added that it is natural for the party to attend the Jeddah meeting and after it the Baghdad meeting to come with a genuine brotherly spirit, that is to say to be prepared to remove the harm that had befell Iraq and lift the aggression on its territories and national wealths and respond to its all legitimate and clear rights.

And within this frame it should be said that the demanded is to remove any excess on the Iraqi outposts or the Iraqi oilfields, for instance the al-Rumaylah, and relinquish completely and for good of whatever will lead to impinge Iraq's rights. [sentence as received]

The paper concluded that by that spirit only, the spirit of being ready to acknowledge Iraq's rights and respond to them and remove the damages and losses that befell it, all the problems impending between the two parties can be solved and liquidated.

AL-QADISIYAH 29 Jul

JN2907091390 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0700 GMT 29 Jul 90

[Text] Baghdad, 29 Jul (INA)—The newspaper AL-QADISIYAH urges Kuwait to realistically and objectively

consider the points Iraq raised in its two memorandums to the Arab League in search of a comprehensive and final solution to outstanding issues, as Iraq has sought to find solutions with goodwill, principled positions, and faith, and through numerous calls.

In its editorial, the paper says that the Kuwaiti Government's objective consideration of the details of the two memorandums will enable Kuwait to have a better understanding of the facts pertaining to the Iraqi position, which is mainly driven by an eagerness to safeguard pan-Arab security. Iraqi interests are a major factor contributing to the consecration and enhancement of this security, the paper adds.

AL-QADISIYAH goes on to say: Iraq reiterated the components of a sound and honest fraternal relationship in its statements at more than one Arab summit. Nowadays, Iraq is reaffirming these concepts and stressing that it very much wants to hold a fraternal dialogue to achieve the results that will guarantee the restitution of its rights and ensure respect for its national sovereignty in light of Arab good offices and in an atmosphere of understanding. Kuwait is asked to display to help resolve these basic problems within the framework of inter-Arab relations and joint pan-Arab considerations. Iraq has not resorted to threats and blackmail, the paper affirms.

The paper adds: Iraq has shown a perspective designed to protect its national rights and enhance its pan-Arab role under circumstances of which all Arabs are well aware. All Arabs are aware of Iraq's pan-Arab responsibilities and duties. Iraq is shouldering these responsibilities to defend the Arab nation against all forms of imperialist challenges.

AL-QADISIYAH adds: Iraq announced through its leader President Saddam Husayn its call for correcting the course of action which inflicted grave damage on the Arab economic structure in general and the Iraqi economic structure in particular. This call is in harmony with the consistent Iraqi efforts to find practical ways out of some problems which might cause grave and irreparable damage in the future if the parties concerned do not hasten to remedy the Iraqi economy and safeguard Iraqi interests at a time when Iraq is facing a grand conspiracy targeting its resurgence and territorial integrity.

AL-QADISIYAH goes on to say: The memorandum submitted by Tariq 'Azi, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, gave details of these problems and contained a call for finding proper solutions out of goodwill and a desire to safeguard the future of Arab ties. Furthermore, this call was also motivated by Iraq's faith in the unity of the nation. It was also prompted by pan-Arab considerations and a desire to prevent others from falling prey to a parochial vision that only serves the interests of those lying in wait for the Arab nation as well as those who seek to weaken the components of the type of confrontation that it should use to ward off the serious challenges it faces.

The paper adds: What happened between us and Kuwait is an issue that concerns rights that for Iraq represent an important base that it uses to build a better future for the Arab nation. Furthermore, this issue also concerns national sovereignty and the need to safeguard the interests and rights of the Iraqi people.

AL-QADISIYAH says: Basically, the memorandum sought to outline suitable solutions to some of the outstanding issues between Iraq and Kuwait to complement the efforts made by Iraq through various channels in this regard and to affirm the predominance of pan-Arab considerations. The nature of the historical ties with Kuwait was taken into account in all this.

AL-THAWRAH 29 Jul

JN2907074290 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0535 GMT 29 Jul 90

[Text] Baghdad, 29 Jul (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH asserts that Iraq has explicit, legitimate rights that should be acknowledged and established.

In its editorial today, the newspaper says that these rights, which Iraq has been asking for, constitute the linchpin and the basic substance of the case at issue in the Iraqi-Kuwaiti meeting.

The paper adds: For the Kuwaiti-Iraqi meeting, to be held in Jeddah and Baghdad in succession, to meet expectations and for it to achieve its hoped-for national objectives—ending and removing all remnants of unsettled issues between Iraq and Kuwait—it is vital to realize a basic fact in this context: Iraq has explicit, legitimate rights that should be recognized and established. Moreover, these rights, which Iraq has been asking for, constitute the pivotal and basic substance of the point at issue in the Iraqi-Kuwait meeting.

The paper goes on to say: If acknowledgment and understanding of these legitimate Iraqi rights constitutes the correct and appropriate groundwork for any serious, fruitful Iraqi-Kuwaiti dialogue, then a response to these rights will take us through a shortcut to the solution, establish relations between the two fraternal countries on a solid, strong basis of understanding and coordination, ensure the success of the meeting, and—at the same time—prevent any foreign attempts or intervention to exploit the dispute and employ it in the service of evil schemes against the Arab nation and its pan-Arab security.

Iraq—which has always adhered to pan-Arab and fraternal principles and acted with deep concern for the unity of the Arab position, cohesion, and collectiveness—has never used threats or blackmail in its dealings with any Arab country, no matter the extent of the dispute with this other country. Neither has Iraq used these practices in its dealings with Kuwait. Instead, Iraq has asked for its legitimate rights, which are closely linked to its socioeconomic situation and to the Iraqi people's quality of life, future, advancement, and progress.

It is beyond doubt that true brotherhood and the concepts and values of Arab solidarity mandate a response to Iraq's rights by ending the actual encroachment on its territories and oil energies and removing the great harm that has been inflicted on its national economy. It is out of keeping with the principles of brotherhood that a brother should perpetuate an encroachment on his brother's territories and rights. It also runs counter to Arab solidarity that a brother should inflict severe harm on his brother's economy, which bore a heavy burden as a result of a dog-eat-dog, eight-year war in defense of the Arab nation in general and the Gulf region in particular.

Therefore, we maintain that whoever comes to this meeting should be prepared and willing to recognize Iraqi rights, remove the injustice which was done to it, and end the harm and aggression inflicted upon it. Such preparedness will not be available without good, sincere intentions to settle the disputed issue, return things to normal, and remedy what needs to be remedied concerning Iraqi- Kuwaiti relations.

The paper reasserts: Yes, it is out of keeping with brotherhood and the principles of Arab solidarity that a brother should commit an aggression on his brother and encroach on his territories and oil rights and national resources. Fraternal relations, however, cannot be rectified in line with a narrow-minded outlook in dealing with the rights and interests of this country or that. Pan-Arab requirements and the Arab nation's basic interests should dominate dealings among Arab countries, as an embodiment of the fact that the factors of Arab unity are still vibrant and viable. Without taking the aforementioned poir ts into consideration, however, brotherhood and brotherly relations remain mere words.

The paper concludes: Certainly, the response to Iraq's legitimate rights primarily means a serious concern for establishing and cementing Arab solidarity. It also signifies a real desire to solidify the unified Arab position at this critical juncture in which the Arab nation is being subjected to the gravest threats and challenges against its existence and overall security. Above all, the response to Iraq's rights clearly expresses our respect and appreciation for the generous and serious brotherly efforts exerted by the Arab kings and presidents to contain and put an end to the crisis.

AL-JUMHURIYAH 29 Jul

JN2907075290 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0520 GMT 29 Jul 90

[Text] Baghdad, 29 Jul (INA)—The newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH states that Iraq is not a blackmailer. It adds that blackmail is not one of Iraq's traits and that the country is demanding nothing but its legitimate rights.

In its editorial, the paper notes that "the actions of he who sacrifices lives and sheds blood without begging or asking for anything in return, as Iraq did, are to be viewed as the peak of generosity by all standards and criteria, foremost among which are the standards and values cherished by the Arab nation."

AL-JUMHURIYAH adds: What Iraq is asking the Kuwaiti Government to do is to grant it its unmistakably, clear, legitimate rights. The Kuwaiti Government, as Iraq has indicated, steadily and systematically encroached on Iraqi territory when Iraq was preoccupied with the task of warding off the aggression targeting it, Kuwait, and the entire Arab nation. The Kuwaiti Government built military and oil installations as well as military outposts and farms on this territory. Besides, the Kuwaiti Government seized Iraqi oil fields, including the al-Rumaylah oil field which has been well known as an Iraqi oil field for a long time.

The paper says: The Kuwaiti Government extracted oil from these oil fields worth $2.4 billion at a time when Iraq was in urgent need of these funds, in addition to pursuing an oil policy that inflicted grave financial losses on Iraq.

AL-JUMHURIYAH goes on to say: Saying that the Kuwaiti Government aided Iraq when the latter was repulsing the aggression cannot be accepted as an excuse here because, as we have repeatedly indicated, the Kuwaiti Government did not view this aid as a form of assistance. No, this aid was registered as "debts" to be repaid by Iraq. The Kuwaiti Government failed to grant us any more loans when the aggression was undergoing the most dangerous phases in 1982. Moreover, this government has not chosen to write off these debts when Iraq, in a spirit of fraternity, asked for it. This government ignored the request and forgot about it. It seems today that these loans were granted for the sole purpose of defending only Kuwait.

The paper says: Even if the Kuwaiti Government decides to write off these debts, we should not forget that this would fall within the framework of the performance of its national duties first and of its pan-Arab duties second and that Iraq offered immaculate souls and rivers of blood to defend Iraq, Kuwait, countries other than Kuwait, and the entire Arab homeland.

AL-JUMHURIYAH adds: Then it is unfair to make any mention of or insinuate "threats," "blackmail" and so forth when Iraq demands the restitution of its rights.

The paper says: We must recall here that Iraq raised its voice calling for the restitution of its rights only when it had exhausted all other means. If this came as a surprise to the public, it was not a surprise to the Kuwaiti Government, unless there are people who want to use Iraq's patience and silence as a means to forget and swallow up its rights with the passage of time and unless there are people who want to use the time factor to impose "a status quo" and create "acquired rights" at Iraq's expense.

AL-JUMHURIYAH concludes by saying: Now that Arab kings and presidents, particularly His Excellency President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, have used their

fraternal good offices to contain the situation and secure an Iraqi-Kuwaiti meeting in Jeddah and another meeting in Baghdad to continue the talks, anyone coming to these meetings must be prepared to undo the harm and damage inflicted on Iraq.

More on Soviet Defense Industry Minister Visit

Cooperation Minutes Signed

JN2807192990 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1800 GMT 28 Jul 90

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Jul (INA)—Iraq and the USSR today signed minutes here for joint industrial and technical cooperation. Husayn Kamil, minister of industry and military industrialization, signed the minutes for Iraq while Boris Mikhaylovich Belousov, USSR minister of defense industry, signed for the USSR.

In speeches exchanged by the two ministers, Husayn Kamil and Belousov affirmed the desire of the two sides to enhance the ties of cooperation and common understanding in industrial spheres because ties of friendship exist between the two friendly states.

Minister Departs

JN2907201690 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1957 GMT 29 Jul 90

[Text] Baghdad, 29 Jul (INA)—Boris Mikhaylovich Belousov, USSR minister of defense industry, and his delegation left Baghdad this evening at the conclusion of a one-week visit to Iraq.

In a statement to INA the Soviet minister said he was pleased to have had the opportunity to meet with President leader Saddam Husayn and review relations of cooperation between the two countries.

He described his visit to Iraq as positive and fruitful, noting that it resulted in the signing of the minutes of joint industrial and technical cooperation between Iraq and the USSR.

He was seen off at the airport by Industry and Military Industrialization Minister Husayn Kamil Hasan and the Soviet ambassador in Baghdad.

Ne'eman Defends Remarks on Chemical Weapons

TA2807104590 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1000 GMT 28 Jul 90

[Telephone interview with Professor Yuval Ne'eman, minister of energy and infrastructure, science and technology, by David Essing; "this morning"—recorded]

[Text] [Essing] Prof. Yuval Ne'eman, in light of your remarks yesterday about what Israel's response should be to the Iraqi threat to use chemical weapons, U.S. State Department says it will now seek clarifications from the Israeli Government. Just what did you mean by your remarks on the Israeli response to chemical weapons in the hands of Iraq?

[Ne'eman] I think the whole thing was taken out of context. I am not the minister of defense, and I do not form the policy of the Israeli Cabinet with respect to its weapons nowadays. What I said was that the answer should then be in kind; in kind could be heavy bombardment, so the threat [is] that we have an excellent Air Force, and that it could do something about it.

[Essing] But did you not also say that it is no problem to produce chemical weapons today, and that Israel should reply in kind?

[Ne'eman] I did say that it is no problem to produce chemical weapons. I did not call on Israel to start producing them.

[Essing] Does Israel have chemical weapons?

[Ne'eman] I do not know that. I am not the minister of defense, and this question should be directed to the minister of defense.

10 Reported Wounded in Tel Aviv Beach Bombing

TA2807124090 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1230 GMT 28 Jul 90

[Text] A bomb, apparently concealed in a pipe, exploded 30 minutes ago on Yerushalayim Beach in Tel Aviv, opposite the site of the old Opera House. The bomb had apparently been buried in the sand next to the lifeguard's cabin on the beach. About 10 people were wounded. We have learned from the Magen David Adom first aid service that most of them sustained superficial to slight wounds, while one sustained moderate injuries. All the casualties were taken to Ichilov Hospital and are currently being treated. Large numbers of police troops and Magen David Adom personnel are now on the site.

Wounded Tourist Dies

TA2807201290 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 28 Jul 90

[Text] The young Canadian tourist who was wounded this afternoon in the bomb explosion in a Tel Aviv beach died on the operating table at Ichilov Hospital. The remaining 20 casualties have been discharged from the hospital. The police are holding 13 suspects as well as seven Jewish rioters who were taken into custody after they attacked Arabs on the beach and at an hotel on Hayarqon Street, wounding seven of them.

Ministry Condoles Victim's Parents

TA2907160690 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 29 Jul 90

[Text] Jerusalem is saying that the terror attack on the Tel Aviv beach yesterday serves as a reminder that the struggle against international terror is not yet over, and it calls on the countries of the world to help it in this struggle.

The Jerusalem Foreign Ministry spokesman has sent condolences to the Kimmelman family in Canada over the death of their daughter Melanie, and wished the injured a hasty and full recovery. This was reported by our political correspondent Arye Golan.

Commentary Considers Blast

JN2907162190 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1335 GMT 29 Jul 90

["Observation" by Ezra Shirazi]

[Text] Respected listeners: Nobody will be surprised if the leaders of the organizations of terror and killing who ordered the perpetration of yesterday's crime against unarmed civilian holiday makers on the Tel Aviv beach rush to claim that their heinous crime was a heroic military operation of struggle against Israeli military targets and the Israel Defense Forces. And regardless of the identity of the organization that ordered the perpetration of yesterday's crime, it is obvious that the leaders of the organization of terrorists and killers insist on unmasking their ugly, despicable faces from time to time in order to justify their existence and explain how they spend the funds they receive from their trustees.

Without doubt, all those who commit such sinful, dastardly crimes, those who hail such terrorist acts against unarmed civilians, and even those who try to justify them overtly or covertly must be afflicted with a well-known psychological disease that needs no specialists to diagnose. The most important of its well-known symptoms is that the subject loses his human feelings despite his human features. In most cases, a person afflicted with such a disease must have been brainwashed in cellars that specialize in sowing poisons of discord among peoples and nations.

Palestinians and non-Palestinians alike must realize two other basic facts. The first is that Israel—government and people—will not submit to terrorism. Yesterday's crime, just like the previous terrorist crimes, will not effect one iota of change in the Israeli people's conviction and determination to defend themselves and their inalienable historical and national rights. The second fact is that the hundreds and thousands of criminal and barbaric deeds that are being perpetrated in the name of the Palestinians will not advance a solution to their

problem by a hairbreadth, and that this solution and salvation will never be realized through violence and terrorism or at the hands of the organizations of terrorists, saboteurs, and killers.

History proves with certainty that the path of violence and terror will not only fail to promote a solution for the problem of the Palestinians but will indeed sabotage the opportunities of a solution. This path has actually harmed the Palestinians in general and tarnished their image and cause.

It is time all Palestinians realized that the path of terrorism and violence is a negative and destructive one whose cost they themselves have been paying with their blood since the early twentieth century, beginning with the days of the mufti [Haj Amin al-Husayni], passing through the days of Ahmad al-Shuqayri, and ending with Yasir 'Arafat and the other Abu's who belong to the organizations of terrorists, saboteurs, and killers.

Pazner Denies Shamir Willing 'To Give Up' Golan

TA2907114490 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 29 Jul 90

[Text] The Prime Minister's Office said that there is no truth to the report that appeared in THE INDEPENDENT stating that Prime Minister Shamir had told Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad that he is willing to give up the Golan Heights.

Avi Pazner, the prime minister's media adviser, told our political correspondent Arye Golan that these are merely absurd speculations and are totally unfounded. Pazner said that it is a shame that a serious newspaper such as THE INDEPENDENT does not double-check the reports it publishes.

Mr. Pazner also reacted to Yasir 'Arafat's assertion that Prime Minister Shamir is seeking to convene an international conference without the participation of the PLO and to remarks made by 'Arafat's adviser, Bassam Abu-Sharif, according to which Shamir has abandoned the plan to hold elections in the territories. The prime minister's adviser called this wishful thinking on the part of the PLO leadership, from 'Arafat to Abu-Sharif, and added that Mr. Shamir is committed to holding direct negotiations with the Arab states without the convening of an international conference. The prime minister believes that the best way to achieve peace is the implementation of the Israeli initiative; one of which clauses calls for the holding of elections in the territories.

Three Offices of Al-Husayni Closed for Year

TA2907151690 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 29 Jul 90

[Text] This afternoon the Jerusalem police closed three offices belonging to Faysal al-Husayni in East Jerusalem. The closure decrees were issued by the commander of the Central Command, and are effective for one year. Our police affairs correspondent Moshe Nussbaum reports that the offices served the Institute of Arab Studies under the management of al-Husayni.

Meeting With Bush Hinges on Levi's 'Flexibility'

TA2907080890 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 29 Jul 90 p A1

[Report by Washington-based correspondent Ran Dagoni and Avino'am Bar-Yosef]

[Text] The Israeli Embassy in Washington has launched a vigorous campaign to persuade the U.S. Administration to arrange a meeting between President Bush and Foreign Minister David Levi, who is due in the U.S. capital next week on what is defined as a "private" visit. This was reported yesterday by Israeli sources in Washington.

According to the sources, the agreement to arrange such a meeting depends on the outcome of the talks between Levi and James Baker one day earlier. "If Levi demonstrates enough flexibility to convince the United States there is still a chance to revive the peace process, it would be reasonable to assume that Baker will 'reward' him by recommending a meeting with Bush."

MA'ARIV has learned that the embassy's most senior echelons had made unsuccessful efforts to arrange a meeting between Secretary Baker and Defense Minister Moshe Arens during Arens' visit to Washington nine days ago. Baker, it was learned, rejected the request so as not to upset Levi.

The Foreign Ministry is currently probing the possibility of launching negotiations with an additional Arab country before talks with Palestinians.

Cooperation Between Islamic Movements Reviewed

TA2907110090 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 29 Jul 90 p 7

[Article by Mikhal Sela': "Islamic Movements on Both Sides of the Green Line; the Brainchild Outgrew Its Creator"]

[Excerpts] The Interior Ministry ordered the closure of SAWT AL-HAQQ WA AL-HURRIYAH, one of the Israeli Islamic Movement's two publications. A written explanation stated that the paper served as a Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] mouthpiece, and that it contained inflammatory material against Zionism and Judaism.

Whether this is a wise step is a question that deserves debate. Experience shows that the closure of publications has never halted the spread of ideas. The proof of this can be found in the fact that on the day after the closure of this Umm-al-Fahm organ, Hamas disseminated its leaflet No. 60 both in the territories and in Israel.

The movements' publications, both the legal and the underground, are one expression of the closeness between the Muslim Brotherhood in the territories and their military arm, Hamas, and between the Islamic Movement in Israel. At present, the only line that seems

to separate them is the Green Line, which defines differing frameworks of activity on each side. On the Israeli side, the movement operates overtly as a group of associations and societies active in various Arab townships. On the other side, Hamas (and, naturally, Islamic Jihad) operates as an underground movement under the military government, with most of its acknowledged leaders awaiting trial in jail.

Outside the different political framework, which dictates different operational methods and, to a limited extent, different immediate goals, the two major Islamic movements in Israel and in the territories operate as two factions of one movement. The Green Line is meaningless in the definition of their substance and goals. The ambition of the Israeli Islamic Movement, as well as of the Muslim Brotherhood and all factions of Hamas, is to establish a fundamentalist Islamic state on the entire territory of Palestine, as a step toward reassembling the Muslim nation to rule over the Muslim world.

The two movements have been operating in parallel since the 1970's. They grew in the vacuum created by the decline of the Nasirite movement and were part of the Muslim world's general trend of returning to religion.

The rise of Khomeyni inspired many young people to join the Islamic movements in Israel and the territories, and even accelerated the trend. These were basically local movements which were able to provide an answer to Muslims who wanted to stand up to Israel by returning to Islamic identities distinguishing them from the Jews of Israel.

The fact that Israeli Arab high school graduates had the option of studying in religious colleges in Jerusalem, Hebron, and Nabulus created the basis for cooperation. 'Abdallah Nimr Darwish, the Israeli Islamic Movement's unchallenged leader, is himself a graduate of the religious college in Nabulus. [passage omitted]

While education in the territories is primarily political, the first political move of the Israeli Islamic Movement was in parent-teacher associations, through which the movement tried to exert its influence on the educational system. In the wake of the movement's success in local elections 18 months ago, when it gained five mayoralties and about 50 seats in various councils, the movement is now weighing possible participation in the next Knesset elections.

One of the basic factors that prompted the growth of the Islamic associations in the territories—mainly in Gaza—at the beginning of the 1980's, was the encouragement they received from the military government, whose chiefs hoped that the Islamic movements would become a factor that would outweigh and weaken the leftist organizations.

Palestinian elements in the Gaza Strip say that some of the Islamic movements' activists were even given licensed guns; this exacerbated the discord between them to the point of street fights and casualties, but did not impair the PLO's position as the super-organization. (The Israeli Islamic Movement, as a political movement, is not under the control of any particular official authority; therefore, it is difficult to point to a similar attitude.)

The associations in the territories were encouraged to a point where the brainchild outgrew its creator. In Gaza, Islamic elements became a serious nuisance in mid-1980's, when Islamic Jihad activists carried out attacks in which four Israeli civilians and an Army officer were murdered. Inside Israel, the authorities' patience has only recently reached a snapping point. The closure of SAWT AL-HAQQ WA AL-HURRIYAH is only one expression of this.

Minutes Signed With Egypt on Promoting Relations

JN2707160590 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 27 Jul 90

[Text] Jordan and Egypt today signed the minutes from the meetings of the preparatory committee of the Higher Jordanian-Egyptian Joint Committee, which will begin sessions in Amman tomorrow. The minutes were signed for Jordan by Dr. Ziyad Fariz, minister of industry and trade and head of the Jordanian side of the preparatory committee, and for Egypt by Maurice Makramallah, minister of state for international cooperation and head of the Egyptian delegation.

The minutes include several recommendations promoting relations between the two fraternal countries. Over the past two days the preparatory committee discussed areas of possible economic and industrial cooperation as well as trade and cooperation in the fields of planning, energy, oil, mining, agriculture, transportation, communications, culture and education, health, medicine, and manpower.

Reportage on Visit of Egyptian Prime Minister

Welcomed by Badran

JN2707193790 Amman Television Service in English 1900 GMT 27 Jul 90

[Text] Egyptian Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi arrived in Amman this evening at the head of an official delegation. He was welcomed upon arrival at the airport by Prime Minister Mr. Mudar Badran and senior government officials.

Mr. Badran and Dr. Sidqi will co-chair tomorrow's meetings of the Higher Jordanian-Egyptian Commission. The commission will discuss over a period of two days cooperation between the two countries in the economic, trade, tourism, agricultural, industrial, and civil aviation areas. Discussions will also deal with cooperation in the areas of energy, land, maritime and air transport, mass media, manpower, and the movement of citizens between the two countries.

Sidqi Discusses Arab Relations

JN2707204190 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 27 Jul 90

[Excerpt] Egyptian Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi arrived in Amman this evening heading a delegation on an official three-day visit to Jordan to lead the Egyptian side at the Higher Jordanian-Egyptian Joint Committee meetings, which will begin in Amman tomorrow. Prime Minister Mudar Badran, the ministers, and senior civil and military officials welcomed Dr. Sidqi and his delegation upon their arrival.

In a press statement at Queen Alia International Airport, Dr. Sidqi expressed satisfaction with the accomplishments of the joint committee in developing bilateral relations, thanks to the directions of His Majesty King Husayn and His Excellency President Husni Mubarak. He added that the committee will work toward further developing fraternal relations between the two sisterly countries in the interest of both countries.

Replying to a question on the results of Egyptian efforts to settle the difference between the two brothers, Iraq and Kuwait, he said the next few days will witness the restoration of normal relations between the two brotherly countries. He added he has no knowledge of any Iraqi conditions for reconciliation with Kuwait as reported by some media. He said he is carrying a message of love, pride, and appreciation from the Egyptian president and people to His Majesty King Husayn and the Jordanian people. [passage omitted]

Sidqi, Badran To Chair Meeting

JN2807064190 Amman Domestic Service in English 0430 GMT 28 Jul 90

[Text] Meetings of the Joint Jordanian-Egyptian Higher Committee begin in Amman today. The two-day meetings will be chaired by Prime Minister Mr. Mudar Badran and Egyptian Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi.

The committee will debate the promotion of cooperation between the two countries in various fields.

The Egyptian Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi, who arrived in Amman last night, told reporters he is satisfied with the achievements of the Higher Committee in promoting and bolstering relations between Jordan and Egypt. He added that the committee will work more on developing and enhancing bilateral relations.

The prime minister, Mr. Mudar Badran, who welcomed the Egyptian premier and members of the accompanying delegation, said the two sides would work seriously to promote and bolster relations between the two countries. He added that the talks would deal with current Arab issues and emphasized that the meeting will take place within the context of the Joint Committee and the Arab Cooperation Council.

Joint Committee Meeting Opens

JN2807124890 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 28 Jul 90

[Excerpt] Meetings of the Joint Jordanian-Egyptian Higher Committee, Cochaired by Prime Ministers Mudran Badran and 'Atif Sidqi, got under way at the Prime Ministry this morning. [passage omitted]

King Husayn Briefed by Committee

JN2907104390 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 28 Jul 90

[Excerpt] This afternoon at al-Nadwah Palace His Majesty King Husayn received the heads and members of the Higher Egyptian-Jordanian Joint Committee, which is holding its 10th session in Amman.

Prime Minister Mudar Badran and Dr. 'Atif Sidqi, prime minister of the Arab Republic of Egypt, briefed His Majesty King Husayn on the most important issues and topics to be discussed in this session and the achievements throughout the joint march of the two countries in all fields and areas of cooperation.

His majesty the king stressed the importance of the responsibility this committee has assumed and the awaited achievements in the service of the two fraternal countries, in addition to the repercussions of these achievements on the march of the Arab Cooperation Council and that of the entire nation.

The heads and members of the committee had lunch with His Majesty King Husayn in the presence of his majesty's political adviser and the Jordanian and Egyptian ambassadors in Cairo and Amman. [passage omitted]

'Abd-al-Majid Hails Jeddah Meeting

JN2907120890 Amman Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 29 Jul 90

[Text] Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid said today that an Iraqi-Kuwaiti meeting, scheduled in Saudi Arabia today, was a good start towards resolving the dispute between the two countries over oil policies.

Speaking to Radio Jordan, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid voiced his confidence that the Jeddah meeting between Iraqi and Kuwaiti delegates, as well as ensuing talks in both Baghdad and Kuwait, would result in a comprehensive settlement of the dispute. He commended Egyptian President Mr. Mubarak's efforts in cooperation with Arab leaders to contain the crisis.

And, asked about Arab options if the peace efforts faltered, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said Arab contacts were under way and that a conference of Islamic foreign ministers in Cairo would be an opportunity to take up the Iraqi-Kuwaiti dispute.

The Egyptian foreign minister is in Amman to attend the meetings of the joint Jordanian-Egyptian Higher Committee.

Meeting Minutes Detailed

JN2907185190 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 29 Jul 90

[Text] Industry and Trade Minister Ziyad Fariz has discussed the most important points in the minutes of the higher Jordanian-Egyptian Joint Committee meetings. He said:

[Begin Fariz recording] The minutes include agreements for economic, social, and cultural cooperation. At the top of the committee's agenda was a review of trade protocol no. 11, which sets a trade exchange target of $250 million. This can be achieved through equal deals, a free deal, trade exhibitions, and normal trade exchange between the two countries. In addition, there was also an industrial coordination agreement. The committee proposed and endorsed final measures concerning the red meat company, now being established by the Egyptian-Jordanian Holding Company.

The committee also approved various aspects of agricultural cooperation. The minutes provide for cooperation in transportation and measures to facilitate the transport of passengers in vehicles between Nuwaybi' and al-'Aqabah. The committee also approved methods for cooperation in energy, especially electricity. There are also projects for electricity linkage, which is an important area of cooperation.

The committee also reviewed cultural cooperation and steps to implement the cultural program between the two countries. This is in addition to several other points related to other economic issues. Cooperation in the field of planning was also included in the minutes, and the committee approved a program of action drafted by the planning ministries in the two countries to study joint development plans for southern Jordan and the Sinai region, which have similar natural conditions. These, generally, are the most important points included in the minutes of the meeting. [end recording]

Prime Ministers Sign Minutes

JN2907121890 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 29 Jul 90

[Text] The minutes of the Higher Egyptian-Jordanian Joint Committee's two-day meetings were signed at the Prime Ministry just a short while ago. The minutes were signed by Prime Minister Mudar Badran and Dr. 'Atif Sidqi, prime minister of the Arab Republic of Egypt, in the presence of members of both the Jordanian and the Egyptian delegations.

The minutes provide for bilateral cooperation in the economic, trade, industrial, health, scientific, cultural, informational, transportation, communications, energy, and manpower areas.

Badran, Sidqi Comment on Talks

JN2907171590 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 29 Jul 90

[Report on news conference held by Prime Minister Mudar Badran and Egyptian Prime Minister 'Atif Sidqi "after signing the minutes of the higher Jordanian-Egyptian joint committee meetings in Amman on 29 July"—passages in boldface are recorded]

[Text] [Announcer] At the beginning of the news conference, Prime Minister Badran said:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. To start with, I would like to welcome my brother Dr. 'Atif Sidqi and the esteemed delegation accompanying him. In my name and on behalf of my brothers I extend to the sisterly and friendly delegation the warmest welcome to Jordan. We are glad to have this visit, which has provided a good opportunity to discuss many bilateral issues of concern to our two countries in particular and many issues

of concern to our Arab nation. The 10th session of the higher Jordanian-Egyptian joint committee was held over the past two days. The committee discussed economic cooperation between the two sisterly countries, trade, and all aspects of coordination and cooperation in agriculture, industry, planning, transportation, energy, communications, culture and education, media, tourism, health, and labor. In particular, the discussions centered on the challenges facing the Arab nation on both regional and international levels and on the distinctive relationship between the two fraternal peoples in Egypt and Jordan, knowing that our countries are two major members of the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC]. On this occasion, I am glad to praise the good Arab efforts made by the leadership in the two fraternal countries to heal rifts and unify and step up efforts in the interest of the entire Arab nation. I refer in particular to our primary central issue, the Palestine question. As always, the talks were characterized by an atmosphere of full brotherhood, mutual confidence, and common desire to push forward joint Arab action. Amman continues to be the sister of Cairo, of all other Arab capitals, and of our united Arab people from the Gulf to the ocean. Thank you.

[Announcer] On Jordan's efforts to contain the dispute between Iraq and Kuwait, Badran said:

A political comment was already made by his majesty the king in Alexandria. He said this is a summer cloud that will soon blow over, God willing. A meeting was held between His Excellency President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and His Majesty King Husayn in Alexandria and another between the Egyptian delegation under Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi and the Jordanian delegation. During these meetings detailed discussions were held and, as expected, things are quickly returning to normal. The delegations and the two leaders agreed that the problem should remain an Arab one and not be internationalized. This is what has happened; the problem remains within the one family. We now see the beginning of the settlement of this problem, and as a result of the Egyptian president's efforts, there will be a meeting in Jeddah between leaders from sisterly Kuwait and Iraq.

[Announcer] Regarding ways to increase the trade between the two countries, Badran said:

I have not touched on the details of the agreements I have just mentioned. We hope that the trade and commodities exchange will amount to $250 million per year. We and our brother Prime Minister 'Atif Sidqi have agreed to overlook minor issues in commodities exchange as well as resolutions restricting economic and trade exchange. There should be openness among the brother ministers with regard to these agreements because we are looking forward to a greater and more comprehensive program. We should not dwell on minor issues. But at the same time, if unresolved these issues will hamper comprehensive steps toward integration between our two countries. Therefore, I have instructed my brother ministers on both sides to overlook these minor points as the leaderships have decided that we will take persistent steps toward economic integration between our two countries.

[Announcer] On Egypt's readiness to host the forthcoming Arab summit conference, Egyptian Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi said:

The Arab summit conference will be held in Cairo in November, God willing. There are two summits: The ACC summit to be held in Baghdad in October, God willing, and the Arab summit conference to be held at the Arab League headquarters in November, God willing. Preparations for this important and decisive conference are now underway, and efforts are in full progress. We will hold a conference of the Islamic countries' foreign ministers in the next few days within the framework of the Islamic Conference Organization. This conference will be successful, God willing, because the entire Islamic nation will also include the Arab nation. Preparations have been completed and the foreign ministers will begin to arrive within the next 48 hours.

[Announcer] Regarding political moves to promote peace efforts in the Middle East, Dr. Sidqi said:

Egypt insists on a complete solution to the problem because we are peace advocates in the first place. There are attempts to overlook the problem. Therefore, the dialogue between the PLO and the U.S. side or Administration has been suspended. We hope there will be positive developments to resume the dialogue or discussion in order to hold more expanded meetings involving more parties to consolidate peace in the region, God willing.

[Announcer] On His Majesty King Husayn's visit to Iraq and Kuwait today, Mudar Badran said:

There have been continuous telephone contacts between his majesty the king and His Excellency President Saddam and also between his majesty and his highness the Kuwaiti amir. There was a plan for the king's visit, but some local social duties have delayed the visit. However, his majesty wanted to promote and speed up efforts to restore the situation to normal.

Prince Hasan Meets With Sidqi

JN2907184290 Amman Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 29 Jul 90

[Text] His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the regent, met the Egyptian Prime Minster 'Atif Sidqi at his office this afternoon.

They discussed a number of important issues, particularly water resources in the region.

The meeting was attended by the Egyptian Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, and the Egyptian ambassador in Amman.

King Husayn Leaves for Iraq, Kuwait

JN2907111390 Amman Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 29 Jul 90

[Text] His majesty the king left for visits to Iraq and Kuwait to heal the rift between the two countries over oil production and border disputes. His majesty's visits are part of Arab efforts to contain the differences, boost Arab solidarity and pan-Arab action to protect the Arab order.

Since the dispute erupted, his majesty took the initiative by contacting Arab leaders. His majesty also visited Egypt last week where he held talks with President Husni Mubarak on ways to end the Iraqi-Kuwaiti dispute.

His majesty was seen off upon departure by his royal highness the crown prince; His Royal Highness Prince Faysal; the prime minister; the speakers of both Houses of Parliament; and other officials. His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan was sworn in as regent.

His majesty is accompanied by his Political Adviser 'Adnan Abu-'Awdah.

Editorial Condemns U.S. Sanctions on Iraq

JN2807093390 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 28 Jul 90 pp 1, 20

[Editorial: "The U.S. Campaign Against Iraq"]

[Text] The U.S. Congress's decision yesterday to impose financial sanctions on Iraq revealed nothing new in the stance of this U.S. legislative authority, which is wholly and completely biased to everything that is contrary to the Arab nation's interests and which supports without reservation the enemies of the Arabs in a fanatic way characterized by limited and narrow horizons. If reports are true that the U.S. Administration is in turn thinking of taking certain measures against Iraq, then the picture of total U.S. hostility to the Arab nation will be complete. In this way, the United States will add a new dimension to its blatant defiance of the Arab nation.

Perhaps the strangest thing worth noting in the U.S. anti-Iraq campaign is that it arrived at a time when the emergency crisis in the Gulf changed course toward a solution and after all parties had declared their intention to find a fraternal way out of the crisis. By aggravating the situation, it seems as though the United States is announcing its rejection of any solution or accord among the brothers.

This uncovers the true intentions of the United States, which intends to spread its hegemony over the region and maintain a state of tension and escalation among the Arab countries.

After all this, is there a shadow of a doubt remaining in our minds that our enemy is not the Zionist enemy alone? The U.S. Administration insists on including itself among those hostile to the Arab nation and presents all possible justifications for doing so. This compels us to put it in the place it has chosen for itself and declare it the enemy of our nation, which should not be confronted by one or the other Arab nation alone. All Arab countries should confront it together to put an end to its hegemony over our potential and resources and to push it to withdraw from what it is getting involved in as a result of our not confronting its policy firmly and not harming its huge interests in our region.

What should remain clear is that the power of fraternal Iraq is a source of power to all the Arab nation and is viewed as the just peace force with the right to resort to whatever it can to retrieve the Arab right from its usurpers.

We should also note that the rising Arab power does not pose a threat to the United Nations when the latter practices a nonhostile policy toward our nation. This is something the U.S. Administration knows very well but rejects because it ties its hands and those of its ally, Israel, and restricts its ambitions to dominate the region after the balance of international power has been tipped.

The increasing U.S. hostility coincides with fraternal Iraq's determination to stop the depletion of Arab resources at the cheapest prices and halt regional competition in rushing after this wealth, which belongs to the whole nation. This wealth should be used to serve the causes of Arab growth and liberation. This is precisely what Israel and its ally do not want. This makes it clear to us where the U.S. policy and its current essence are coming from.

Prime Minister Departs for Baghdad To Join King

JN2907191890 Amman Television Service in English 1900 GMT 29 Jul 90

[Text] Prime Minister Mudar Badran left for Baghdad tonight to join his majesty the king during his visits to Iraq and kuwait.

Lebanon

'Awn Ready for 'New Round of Negotiations'

NC2707130290 (Clandestine) The Lebanese Radio in Arabic 1100 GMT 27 Jul 90

[Text] In a press conference before the accredited correspondents at the Presidential Palace today, prime minister General Michel 'Awn empasized his readiness for any new round of negotiations. He noted that the impression he had from his talks with Lakhdar Ibrahimi is that the Arab envoy's mission in his latest tour was to market al-Ta'if as it is.

Asked during the press conrference at noon today about the possibility of imposing a blockade on the eastern area, Gen. 'Awn said there is no danger of that and that such a possibility is unlikely.

Asked about the possible return to the language of the gun, he said: No faction has any interest in resuming the war.

Gen. 'Awn said a fatal mistake is absolutely rejected and that it is up to public opinion alone to comment on what is happening. He added it is the advocates of the al-Ta'if accord who are burying it. As for me, I am trying to revive it in a suitable and acceptable version that could be fruitful for the solution.

Gen. 'Awn pointed out that the problem is not his—he represents the free party in Lebanon. A no said by him is one that will be recorded in history for the free party, while a yes said at the present time is for the bad time of today. [as heard]

In response to a question, he said Syria's policy in Lebanon now is a state of friendship between the Lebanese people and Syria.

National Parties, Forces Meet; Issue Statement

NC2707145190 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 27 Jul 90

[Statement read by 'Abdallah al-Amin, regional secretary of the Ba'th Party Organization in Beirut, following a meeting of the nationalist forces and party representatives on the Organization's premises "in Lebanon" on 27 July—recorded]

[Text] The nationalist parties and forces held a meeting during which they discussed the situation in Iqlim al-Tuffah and the grave developments confronting Lebanon in general and the South in particular because of the war taking place in Iqlim al-Tuffah. The following statement was issued at the end of the meeting:

The Lebanese nationalist parties and forces discussed the effects of the destructive war in Iqlim al-Tuffah which seeks to:

1. Undermine the al-Ta'if agreement, abort the recent government's initiative, and separate the issue of the South from that of the national solution and include it in the bargains taking place within the framework of the Middle East question.
2. Expose the Arabism of the South and consequently that of Lebanon to danger by opening the way for the regional forces, particularly Israel, to achieve their ambitions and purposes at the expense of the inhabitants of the South and consequently at the expense of Lebanon.
3. Abort the national resistance by striking at its popular centers and endangering the national steadfastness base, which the resistance formed to confront the Zionist enemy, in order for the South to become an easy morsel for the occupation forces and their agents.
4. Displace the inhabitants of Iqlim al-Tuffah and destroy the villages in the area, exposing the land to dangers of settlement and colonization.

In view of all this, the nationalist parties and forces have decided to support the Council of Minister's decision on the deployment of the legitimacy's regular forces and to consider this as the only solution to end the fighting. They also decided to call upon the government to resolve the situation in the South through the unconditional and unrestricted deployment of the Lebanese Army there.

A. While stressing this decision, the nationalist parties and forces consider any obstruction of or bargain on the deployment of the Lebanese Army as a conspiracy against Lebanon's unity and Arabism. They urge the two parties to the conflict to immediately abide by the cease-fire and to withdraw their military forces from the area to open the way for the deployment of the Lebanese Army.

B. The nationalist parties and forces declare their support for the sons of the South and their steadfastness and respect for their will as part of the national and Arab will. The nationalist parties and forces also declare their support for safeguarding the security of the South as part of the security of Lebanon and of Arab security. They request the Lebanese Government to consider Iqlim al-Tuffah an afflicted area and to direct the efforts of the official institutions toward securing all the needs of the afflicted inhabitants to preserve their dignity and to confirm that the state abides by its commitments to them and carries out its duties.

C. The nationalist parties and forces condemn any party which obstructs the deployment of the legitimate Lebanese Army in the Iqlim al-Tuffah area as a first step toward its deployment in all the South and Lebanon. They hold the obstructionist parties fully responsible and consider them to be a party to the plot against Lebanon, its Arabism, sovereignty, and independence. Thanks.

Fadlallah Calls for Iqlim Al-Tuffah Cease-Fire

NC2707192790 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1845 GMT 27 Jul 90

[Text] 'Allamah Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah has stressed that it is necessary to agree on a formula which will maintain the security of the South and the freedom of the resistance. In his Friday sermon today, he called for an immediate cease-fire in Iqlim al-Tuffah. He said: We feel ashamed because of all this media vituperation which serves no one. Fadlallah asked: Why do they demand the withdrawal of the Iranian Revolution Guards when no one is demanding the withdrawal of Israel and all the other forces who have no business to be in Lebanon?

Hizballah Official Meets Al-Huss, Makes Statement

NC2707194190 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1845 GMT 27 Jul 90

[Text] After meeting with Prime Minister Salim al-Huss today, Shaykh Na'im Qasim, a member of the Hizballah Command, said that the discussions dealt with the crisis in Iqlim al-Tuffah and the various stands on it. He added: We reject the Palestinian deployment in Iqlim al-Tuffah and welcome the national Army, which opposes Israel and supports the resistance. We are in favor of the deployment

of the Army throughout the South to prevent the domination of a party which has proved itself unfit to safeguard the people's security and dignity.

Al-Hirawi Confers With Ministers, Ibrahimi

NC2707194990 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 27 Jul 90

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi, Prime Minister Dr. Salim al-Huss, and Defense Minister Dr. Albert Mansur held a working meeting at the president's office this evening. Army Commander General Emile Lahhud also attended the meeting. They discussed the latest developments in the security situation in Iqlim al-Tuffah, as well as the situation in the eastern area in the light of the Council of Ministers' statement relating to the Administrative Beirut plan.

President al-Hirawi received Arab tripartite committee envoy Lakhdar Ibrahimi tonight. Prime Minister al-Huss was also present.

Premier Sends Message to Syrian, Iranian Officials

NC2807082990 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 28 Jul 90

[Text] Prime Minister Dr. Salim al-Huss dispatched Ambassador Fawzi Sallukh, director of economic affairs at the Foreign Ministry, to Damascus this morning to deliver messages to Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam and the Iranian Embassy concerning the situation in Iqlim al-Tuffah and the current contacts to end the conflict there.

Al-Huss Sends Message to Iranian President

NC2807181490 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1630 GMT 28 Jul 90

[Text] AFP disclosed today that Prime Minister Dr. Salim al-Huss has sent another message to Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, urging cooperation in putting an end to the current conflict between the Amal Movement and Hizballah.

According to AFP, the message (?referred) to a link between the Iranian leadership and certain parties involved in the Iqlim al-Tuffah fighting.

Al-Huss Receives Message From Iran's Velayati

NC2807192090 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 28 Jul 90

[Text] Prime Minister Dr. Salim al-Huss received Iranian Charge d'Affaires Mohammad Javad Zamanian tonight. Zamanian was accompanied by Valizadeh, counselor at the Iranian Embassy.

After the meeting, Zamanian said he had given Dr. al-Huss a message from Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, stressing Iran's willingness to solve the problems of the Lebanese people.

Dr. al-Huss also received Army Commander General Emile Lahhud and reviewed developments with him.

Contents of Message

NC2907093290 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 29 Jul 90

[Message from Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati delivered to Prime Minister Salim al-Huss by Iranian Charge d'Affaires Mohammad Javad Zamanian on 28 July]

[Text] I would like first of all to express our deep appreciation and gratitude for the valuable assistance and profound sympathy which the Lebanese state and the Lebanese Muslim people extended on the occasion of the recent tragic earthquake in Iran.

As you well know, the Islamic Republic of Iran has shown noticeable interest in and special concern over the many tragedies and problems which faced the noble Lebanese people in the past. It will spare no effort to extend any assistance to serve the interests of this suffering people. Based on the close and historic religious ties between the Lebanese and Iranian people, the Islamic Republic of Iran has always sought to strengthen relations between the two countries. In our opinion, these relations are today proceeding on a normal course, and we hope they will witness constant improvement with the passage of time.

Mr. Prime Minister, the terrible battles and tragic clashes taking place in southern Lebanon have deeply wounded the heart of the Iranian Muslim state and people. In the opinion of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the continuation of these battles will only serve the interests of the Zionist enemy and people fishing in murky waters who have taken many steps toward a capitulationist solution to the Palestinian issue. This will ultimately produce division and strife in the ranks of the Lebanese Islamic and national forces and will undermine the solidarity between the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples.

Therefore, the Islamic Republic of Iran vigorously calls for an immediate end to these clashes and states that it is ready, as always, to make every effort and use its good offices to put an end to the bloodshed among brothers. In this regard, continuous contacts and consultations were held with brother officials in fraternal Syria. Further efforts and talks will be made to find a final solution to the conflict based on the principles of the Damascus agreement.

As you know, the Islamic Republic made sincere efforts in the past, based on Muslim shari'a and humanitarian considerations, to end the internal battles in Lebanon, particularly between Amal and the Palestinian forces and between Amal and Hizballah. It is prepared in the present circumstances to use all its resources to deal with this tragedy.

The Islamic Republic of Iran reaffirms its previously announced desire to maintain Lebanon's independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity. It expresses its readiness to place all its resources at the disposal of the Muslim masses to solve Lebanon's problems and heal its wounds. It also expresses its hope that peace, security, and calm will prevail in all parts of Lebanon.

In conclusion, I ask Almighty God to grant you and the Lebanese Muslim people peace, happiness, and success.

Revolutionary Guards Command Issues Statement

NC2807065890 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 28 Jul 90

[Statement issued by the Islamic Revolutionary Guards command in Lebanon; place and date not given]

[Text] In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful. O ye who believe! If a wicked person comes to you with any news, ascertain the truth, lest ye harm people unwittingly, and afterward become full of repetenance for what ye have done. [Koranic verse] Verily, God said the truth.

To the dear brothers and relatives in Lebanon and in the steadfast south: Despite the clear nature of Iran's Islamic role, especially the role of the Islamic Revolutionary Guards, in the inter-Shiite dispute in Lebanon, it is necessary to clarify some points:

1. The Islamic Revolutionary Guards, messengers of Imam Khomeyni, may his soul be sanctified, have come to Lebanon to stand on the side of the oppressed and the strugglers in their confrontation of the enemies of Islam and humanity, above all the usurping Zionist entity. Toward this end, they have given scores of martyrs and trained tens of thousands of strugglers.
2. The Guards have always rejected dispute among Muslims. They continue to denounce all internal struggles and call for unity of ranks in the confrontation with the common enemy.
3. The Guards consider both Hizballah and the Amal Movement as sons of the Islamic revolution, in line with the teachings of Imam Khomeyni, may his soul be sanctified, and his successor leader Khamene'i, may God preserve him. The Guards have always sought to strengthen their relations with these two groups, but the actions of some outsiders have at times negatively affected this relationship.
4. The Guards ask the two parties to stop fighting immediately, sit at the negotiating table, and implement the Damascus agreement, which was concluded under the sponsorship of Iran and Syria.
5. The Guards pledge to Imam Husayn, may God's peace be with him, in this month of Muharram, to continue their holy march toward Jerusalem despite the lies and falsehoods. The road of the prophets is strewn with thorns and can only be followed by the righteous and the patient.

Tehran Radio Reports Communique

LD2807112290 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 28 Jul 90

[Text] The Islamic Revolution Guards command in Lebanon calls on Lebanon's revolutionary Hizballah movement and the Amal Movement to stop their clashes, and invites them to hold talks and endeavor to implement the Damascus accord signed under the supervision of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Syria.

According to IRNA, the Islamic Revolution Guards command in Lebanon issued a communique today condemning internal clashes in Lebanon, particularly those among Muslims, stressing its rejection of the internal war between the forces of Amal and Hizballah, and calling for the unity of all anti-Zionist forces so that they can confront the common enemy, the Zionist regime.

Ja'ja' Discusses 'Awn, Other Issues

NC2807094990 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 28 Jul 90

[Text] Lebanese Forces Commander Dr. Samir Ja'ja' has called for an end to political and propaganda squabbling. Describing the situation as tragic, he said that a game is being played which only takes the interests of politicians into account. He noted the talks among officials revolve around insignificant topics, such as how many angels can dance on the head of a pin.

In an interview with our station today, Dr. Ja'ja' warned that Lebanon is facing great dangers which could result in the destruction of the legitimate government and of the state's independence and international recognition. He said that what is currently taking place is a process to exhaust the people in the eastern area and Iqlim al-Tuffah.

Dr. Ja'ja' criticized General 'Awn, who recently discovered that the main problem lies in the unequal distribution of power. Ja'ja' asked: Why is the government statement being obstructed? Criticizing 'Awn's vacillating stands, Dr. Ja'ja' said: Gen. 'Awn has been able to fool some of the people some of the time, but he cannot fool all of the people all of the time. He stressed that 'Awn has lost all the qualifications of a politician.

Dr. Ja'ja' disclosed that he twice refused to join the government—first during the days of martyr President Rene Mu'awwad and then during the days of President al-Hirawi. He said he refused because this would have sown the seeds of discord in the eastern area.

Dr. Ja'ja' noted that the Lebanese Forces are not a militia but a well-organized resistance group, whose composition is similar to a composition of a state. He said that following the end of the military operations in the eastern area, everybody, including 'Awn himself, realized that he would not be able to embark on any further military action. He added that the self-defense operation carried out by the Lebanese Forces was successful.

Dr. Ja'ja' explained that recognition of the legitimacy of President Ilyas al-Hirawi and joining the march of accord came after we emerged from our crisis with Gen. 'Awn and not before and that a solution to the current situation must go through through the legal government. He said: We must first secure the basic prerequisites for Lebanon's continued existence and then begin to search for a system.

Dr. Ja'ja' reaffirmed the Lebanese Forces' full and firm support for the Lebanese Government's statement and program. Our stand, Dr. Ja'ja' said, is not tied to 'Awn's rejection or acceptance of this statement.

Regarding the plan for the administrative district of Beirut, Dr. Ja'ja' noted that the government is preparing the mechanism for implementing the program and that he is awaiting its appearance. He said: The government plan is indivisible and we are awaiting this mechanism so we can all implement it.

Dr. Ja'ja' rejected the logic which calls for imposing conditions on the legal government's entry into the eastern area. He noted that several local and foreign parties object to the legal government's entry into the eastern area.

Regarding contacts in the eastern area, Dr. Ja'ja' explained that the military and security committee will resume meeting shortly as Gen. 'Awn had requested that the meetings be suspended during Ibrahimi's stay in Beirut.

Asked about the Lebanese Forces' relations with Syria, Dr. Ja'ja' said: We do not have rigid ideological stands. He expressed his objection to any moves which do not benefit Lebanon. The yardstick by which we determine our stands, Dr. Ja'ja' said, is not the party but the interests.

On his differences with former President Amin al-Jumayyil, Dr. Ja'ja' said that the country's and the eastern area's woes now are a result of al-Jumayyil's economic and political policy. He described the new law on trying presidents, prime ministers, speakers, and other politicians as a welcome measure.

Dr. Ja'ja' warned against the continuation of the current situation in the south. He expressed his deep regret at the current fighting between Amal and Hizballah in Iqlim al-Tuffah.

Envoy Ibrahimi Leaves for Jeddah 28 Jul

NC2807121190 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 28 Jul 90

[Text] Arab envoy Lakhdar Ibrahimi left Beirut for Jeddah today to submit a report to the Arab Higher Tripartite Committee so that the necessary steps can be taken. Members of the committee had held contacts with officials in the Vatican and Paris on the developments in Lebanon.

Before his departure, Ibrahimi held a number of contacts, including one with Minister Nabih Birri.

A senior Arab diplomatic source has stressed that the Tripartite Committee will issue a statement that will go beyond holding Michel 'Awn responsible for impeding the efforts of the legitimacy and the Arab committee to the announcement of procedural decisions that will help the Lebanese authorities to implement the government program. The source added that the Tripartite Committee will support all steps taken by legitimacy regardless of the consequences and reactions.

Cabinet Reviews Situation, Decides on Measures

NC2807125990 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1147 GMT 28 Jul 90

[Statement issued following cabinet meeting held under President Ilyas al-Hirawi in West Beirut on 28 July—read by Justice and Information Minister Edmond Rizq]

[Text] The cabinet held an extraordinary session today under His Excellency President Ilyas al-Hirawi which was attended by His Excellency Prime Minister Dr. Salim al-Huss and the ministers.

At the start of the session, his excellency the president briefed the cabinet on the results of the extraordinary working session he held with his excellency the president of the Syrian Arab Republic on Thursday night [26 July] in Damascus during which they discussed various aspects of the current Lebanese situation. The two presidents underlined their complete agreement on extending full support for the Lebanese Government's program to implement the national accord document declared on 11 July and to consolidate the rule of the legitimate government in all areas.

The cabinet then reviewed the developments that have taken place since it launched its initiative which calls on all the concerned parties to join the peace process and to participate constructively in shouldering responsibility. The cabinet discussed the results of the latest mission of the Higher Arab Tripartite Committee's envoy, the answers he received, and the stands declared by those concerned. The cabinet noted the positive indications from some principal parties and decided to continue the contacts to strengthen these indications and translate them into facts.

The cabinet also noted with deep regret the negative and contradictory stand adopted by the former army commander ['Awn], who bears responsibility for the failure of the reconciliation endeavors, the disruption of the state's institutions, and the paralysis in the country's services. His isolated and intransigent stands have caused successive disappointments for the Lebanese people, have sown despair in their hearts, and have caused them to emigrate. He imposed on the army—the institution of national unity and source of national pride—a state of division which is alien to its nature and composition. He involved this army in reckless confrontations that claimed thousands of victims and caused destruction that is unprecedented in all that has befallen Lebanon in 15 years.

In view of this situation, the cabinet decided to take the necessary measures and charged the ministers, departments, and organs concerned with implementing them. It holds the former army commander responsible for the consequences of impeding the peace process and of continuing to prolong the Lebanese people's sufferings and subjecting them to further pain and tragedy. He has caused the failure of all efforts and initiatives and squandered all opportunities, and he persists in tampering with the fate of the entire homeland.

The cabinet tasked a ministerial committee consisting of Ministers Albert Mansur and Muhsin Dallul with following up the stages of implementing the assigned measures and coordinating among the various parties concerned. The committee is empowered to seek the aid of any civilian and military official whenever necessary.

The cabinet also discussed the situation in Iqlim al-Tuffah. It reiterated the decision announced at its last session which calls on all gunmen to cease fire immediately and to withdraw completely from the region so that the legitimate authority's forces can take it over. The cabinet reviewed the ongoing contacts and efforts. It sees in the popular support for its decision an expression of the people's firm resolve to end the acts of violence, return life to normal, and extend the sole authority of the legitimate state to all areas of the homeland.

'High-Level' Military Team Holds Talks in Damascus

NC2807173390 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 28 Jul 90

[Text] A high-level Lebanese military delegation is holding talks with Syrian officials in Damascus today on the security situation in Lebanon. Army Commander General Emile Lahhud is expected to brief Prime Minister Dr. Salim al-Huss tonight on the outcome of the delegation's visit to the Syrian capital.

Sources Detail Expected Cabinet Measures

NC2907064890 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 29 Jul 90

[Text] Ministerial sources have affirmed that the ministries will address an appeal to their senior administrative officials to join the legitimate government or face the consequences. The government will also ask General Emile Lahhud to issue a statement within a few days, appealing to officers and soldiers to join his command by a specific deadline which will be in the near future. Lahhud will take advantage of the celebration of Army Day on 1 August to appeal to all officers and soldiers to join the legitimate government. Anyone who does not respond to the appeal will be dismissed from the military establishment.

The sources said that an oil embargo will be imposed on Gen. 'Awn. Movement at the crossing points will also be regulated with crossing points leading to 'Awn's areas being closed. Citizens wishing to leave these areas will be allowed to cross, but entry to these areas will be forbidden.

The measures will also include a request that the foreign ambassadors accredited to Lebanon sever any contact with Gen.'Awn and confine their contacts to the legitimate authority. The government will also adopt firm banking and monetary measures, such as suspending currency transfers to banks in the areas under Gen. 'Awn's control.

Within the framework of the preparations for the coming stage, which is expected to be decisive, a meeting took place last night between Prime Minister Dr. Salim al-Huss and Army Commander Gen. Lahhud in the presence of Army Chief of Intelligence Nabih Farhat. Lahhud briefed Dr. al-Huss on the outcome of the Lebanese military delegation's visit to Damascus yesterday.

Sa'adah on Government Measures, Syrian Relations

NC2907123390 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 29 Jul 90

[Text] Phalangist Party leader Minister George Sa'adah has stated that he believes the coming stage will be very critical. He added, however, that this stage can bring security, peace, and stability if the state's measures achieve their desired positive results.

In an interview with the Voice of Lebanon, Sa'adah affirmed that at its latest meeting the Council of Ministers discussed all the measures that must be adopted, on condition that these measures do not adversely affect the people's daily lives and livelihood. Sa'adah added that the citizens have no refuge left except the legitimate government, around which we must rally and which we must invigorate so that everyone will reap positive results.

Dr. Sa'adah said the legitimate government is not so much the person of the president or prime minister as it is the responsibilities of the presidency, the prime ministership, and the entire government. He announced that we must relinquish the cult of the individual in Lebanon which has brought us numerous catastrophes.

On his visit to Damascus, the Phalangist Party leader said his acceptance of an invitation to visit Damascus was inspired by his wish to develop the Lebanese-Syrian relationship into one based on the sound foundations of unimpaired sovereignty and the interests of the two countries.

Sa'adah revealed that he had lengthy discussions with Syrian officials about the al-Ta'if agreement, the hopes it holds out for the Lebanese people, and the relationship between Lebanon and Syria. Sa'adah asked, if al-Ta'if is a crime, why is General 'Awn, judging by his own statements, trying to revive it?

On Syria's demands of Lebanon, Dr. Sa'adah said: We must now declare what we want. Some leaders established their position by adopting hardline stands toward Syria but ended up seeking rapprochement with it and asking for its support, in accordance with their personal

interests. For this reason, we must tell the truth as it is, without lying and without inflaming sentiments. Let the relationship with Syria be established without complications and on clear and frank foundations that respect the two countries' sovereignty and independence.

In conclusion, Sa'adah said he visited Damascus because he deemed that such a visit was in the country's interests. He added that he believes it is not possible to resolve the Lebanese crisis without Syria.

Further on Anti-'Awn Measures

NC2907150490 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1345 GMT 29 Jul 90

[Excerpts] As one eventful week ends and another begins—the second expected to witness the practical application of the results of these moves—many questions are being asked about the nature of the measures that the government intends to adopt in light of 'Awn's rejection of its statement and program. His rejection followed long procrastination, discussion, and inquiries about various points. [passage omitted]

The expected measures are: banning the entry of petroleum derivatives, spare parts, and commodities vital to General 'Awn's war effort. The crossings will remain open to citizens and the blockade on the eastern are a will not include a bar on the transfer of supplies such as flour and other foods.

A total diplomatic blockade will be imposed on General 'Awn and foreign ambassadors will be barred from dealing with him. The transfer of currency in excess of specific sums to the 'Awn-controlled part of the eastern area will not be allowed.

It appears that the declared measures will not be implemented all at once but gradually. According to press reports, these measures constitute a preliminary stage that may last for two weeks. If they do not succeed, a second stage will begin during which a decision might be made to shut down the crossing points totally so that all access to 'Awn's area will be blocked. Only citizens wishing to leave the area will be allowed to pass. [passage omitted]

Hizballah Call for Cease-Fire Reported

LD2907201690 Tehran IRNA in English 1844 GMT 29 Jul 90

[Text] Beirut, July 29, IRNA—The Hizballah of Lebanon Sunday urged its rival Amal movement to lay down its arms and abide by the agreement the two sides reached in Damascus under the auspices of Iran and Syria last year.

A prominent member of Hizballah here Shaykh Muhammad Yazbik said its group favoured an end to the confrontation with Amal based on a stable and comprehensive solution which would also guarantee the dignity of the Lebanese Muslims and help safeguard the Islamic resistance against the Zionist regime. Speaking in a southern Lebanon mosque, he also condemned the propaganda war against Iran on the part of certain Lebanese groups, saying that the Islamic Republic has constantly been supporting the world Muslims in their fight against the Zionist regime.

The Alim [relgious scholar] hailed the presence of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) in Lebanon as an important factor in backing the Muslim Mojahidin against the Zionist enemy.

Deploring Yasir 'Arafat and his conciliatory policy, Shaykh Yazbik said the intervention of 'Arafat's militiamen in the unfortunate clashes in southern Lebanon was aimed at carrying out new plots [passage indistinct]

Al-Huss Leaves for Islamic Conference 29 Jul

NC2907162790 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 29 Jul 90

[Text] Prime Minister Dr. Salim al-Huss left for Cairo today to participate in the conference of foreign ministers of Islamic states, which will open tomorrow. On the sidelines of the conference, al-Huss will meet with the members of the Arab ministerial committee concerned with the Lebanese problem to brief them on developments in Lebanon. Arab envoy Lakhdar Ibrahimi, who has been in Jeddah to inform Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, member of the ministerial committee and Saudi foreign minister, of the results of his consultations in Beirut, will take part in the meeting.

Shomron Says Israel 'Could Intervene' in Lebanon

NC2907184290 Paris AFP in English 1822 GMT 29 Jul 90

[Text] Rashayya, Lebanon, July 29 (AFP)—The Israeli Armed Force chief-of-staff, General Dan Shomron, warned Sunday that his country could intervene in the fighting between Shiite rivals raging in south Lebanon.

"Israel is following the fighting very closely and sees in it an element of danger for itself," Gen. Shomron told the pro-Israeli radio station, Voice of the South, during a visit to Israel's "security zone" in south Lebanon.

"The Israeli Army is capable of reaching wherever it wants in Lebanon," he said, adding that Israel "will take this decision at the opportune moment."

The pro-Syrian Amal and its Shiite rivals in the Iranian-backed Hizballah have battled in the southern region of Iqlim al-Tuffah since July 16, killing at least 120 people and wounding 380. Around 1,000 fighters of the Palestine Liberation Organisation's mainstream Fatah group have been deployed in the region as a buffer force, coming up to 10 kilometres (six miles) of Israeli lines. Hizballah has condemned the deployment and accused Fatah of siding with Amal, a charge denied by the Palestinian group. Gen. Shomron warned against the deployment of Palestinian fighters in areas of south Lebanon controlled by Amal.

In 1982, Israel drove out Palestinian fighters from southern Lebanon during its invasion of the country.

IDF To Intervene Only Under Threat

TA2907201490 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 29 Jul 90

[Text] Lieutenant General Dan Shomron, the chief of staff, said today in a meeting with Lebanese reporters in the security strip, that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] is not in the habit of intervening in internal disputes in Lebanon. Nevertheless, said Gen. Shomron, if we reach the conclusion that the developments in the area constitute a threat to us, we will not hesitate to intervene.

Our correspondent Hayim Hecht points out that these remarks by the chief of staff generated a lot of excitement in southern Lebanon and that spokesmen for Amal, Hizballah, and Fatah have been quoting them under the headline: An Israeli warning to the feuding parties in southern Lebanon.

The chief of staff and the commander of the Northern Command toured the security strip in Lebanon today, where they held a meeting with General Lahd.

Amal-Hizballah Clashes in Iqlim Al-Tuffah Ease

NC2707132090 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 27 Jul 90

[Text] The tense clashes between Amal and Hizballah fighters in the Iqlim al-Tuffah villages have eased amid continued military reinforcements by both parties. Meanwhile the exodus from the area continues and it is estimated that approximately 90,000 people have left the area so far. According to the latest reports the Red Cross continues its efforts to remove the casualties from the region.

Hizballah Repulses Amal-Palestinian Attack

NC2807061290 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 28 Jul 90

[Text] There is continued tension in Iqlim al-Tuffah, where reports speak of sporadic skirmishes, mobilization by both the Amal Movement and Hizballah, and an exodus of the local population.

According to news received this morning from Iqlim al-Tuffah, fierce fighting involving the use of various types of weapons is taking place on the Kafr Milki combat lines between Hizballah's fighters on the one hand and the Palestinian forces and the Amal Movement's fighters on the other hand. Amal and the Palestinians waged a joint attack on Kafr Milki this morning, according to Hizballah sources. Hizballah sources said that the attack, which targeted Hizballah's military positions, was repulsed.

Amal sources have accused Hizballah of shelling the villages of Sarba, Humin al-Fawqa, 'Arab Salim, and Kafr Matta with 82- and 120- mm mortars and rockets. The sources say that two citizens were wounded in the shelling of Kafr Matta and were admitted to the 'Ala'-al-Din Hospital in al-Sarafand.

REUTER has reported that a member of the Palestinian disengagement force was killed in Jarju'. Two bulldozers belonging to the disengagement force have cleared paths linking the fronts with the Palestinian positions on the hills overlooking al-Nabatiyah and Dayr al-Zahrani.

Amal Reportedly Seizes Control of Town

NC2807113490 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 28 Jul 90

[Text] Heavy fighting resumed in Iqlim al-Tuffah today. According to the latest reports from the area, fierce clashes in which heavy- and medium-cabliber weapons are being used have been going on since dawn on the Jarju', Jurnaya, and Kafr Milki fronts. Shells are falling in most towns and villages, reaching as far as the outskirts of al-Nabatiyah. The shelling was also heard in Sidon.

The Amal Movement launched a general attack on Kafr Milki at 0530 today under cover of heavy artillery fire. It was able to take control of the town at 1000. Security sources said that the Movement's forces are continuing their advance toward Kafr Fila.

Meanwhile, fierce clashes and exchanges of artillery fire are taking place on the Jarju' front. An Amal Movement source has said that the Movement this morning pierced Hizballah's defenses in Jarju', destroyed Hizballah emplacements near the gasoline station, and seized control of the station. Fighting is currently taking place inside Jarju', the source said.

Hizballah sources have denied that the Amal Movement has seized control of Kafr Milki, and said that Hizballah has repulsed the attack. It is estimated that there are scores of casualties, but the exact number has not yet been determined as Red Cross teams have not been able to enter the combat areas—despite appeals by the two sides for the Red Cross to evacuate the bodies—in view of the intensity of the shelling and the fierceness of the fighting.

15 Palestinians Wounded in Iqlim al-Tuffah Fighting

NC2807122290 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 28 Jul 90

[Excerpts] Violent fighting between Amal and Hizballah gunmen continues in Iqlim al-Tuffah. Clashes with all types of weapons have been taking place on the Jarju', Jurnaya, and Kafr Milki combat lines since dawn today. [passage omitted]

Citing security sources, REUTER has reported that 15 members of the Palestinian disengagement force have been wounded in the fighting.

Amal Issues Statement on Progress of Fighting

NC2807143690 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 28 Jul 90

[Statement issued by the Amal Movement's Military Operations Room on 28 July]

[Text] At exactly 1215 today, the Amal Movement—Martyr Abu-'Ali Hammud unit tightened its control over Kafr Milki township. Battles are now raging on the Jurnaya-Kafr Milki-Kafr Fila junction.

On the Jarju' combat line, an Amal Movement unit succeeded in penetrating the defense lines of Hizballah in Jarju'. The unit destroyed Hizballah's emplacements near the gas station and seized the station. Battles are still raging in Jarju'.

Iqlim Al-Tuffah Situation, Casualties Updated

NC2807151690 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1415 GMT 28 Jul 90

[Text] According to reports from Iqlim al-Tuffah, the Amal Movement is currently attacking the Jurnaya and Kafr Milki axes, with support from the Palestinian forces and the Elie Hubayqah groups, seven members of which have been killed.

The reports say the Palestinians are in control of most parts of Jurnaya Hill, while the Amal Movement controls Kafr Milki township. Fierce clashes have been taking place since 1500, with the capture of Hamadah Hill near Kafr Milki the objective. A violent bombardment is reaching the villages of Kafr Hatta, Kafr Milki, Kafr Bayt, 'Ayn Qana, Jurnaya, Sarba, Jarju', 'Arab Salim, al-Luwayzah, Jba', 'Ayn Bu Siwar, Mlita, Habbush, Dayr al-Zahrani, and Zifta, as well as the Dayr al-Zahrani-al-Nabatiyah Highway and the outskirts of al-Nabatiyah.

Medical sources say more than 70 people have been killed or injured in today's clashes. REUTER reports 10 killed and 40 wounded.

According to Amal Movement sources, Amal fighters have gained control of Kafr Milki and the surrounding hills and are advancing toward Kafr Fila. Hizballah sources have denied this, saying that Hizballah fighters have repulsed four attacks launched by Amal fighters in a bid to capture the township.

A Hizballah source has reported that, since 1530, the Amal Movement and pro-'Arafat Fatah have been engaged in a large-scale attack on Kafr Milki and Hamadah Hill under artillery cover. Most of the Iqlim villages are coming under shelling, the source said, asserting that Hizballah men are still holding out in their positions and are repulsing the attack. In a later statement, the same source declared that the attack on Hamadah Hill and Kafr Milki was checked and foiled at 1615. The source said that Abu-William, the leader of the attack, has been wounded, and that the Hizballah fighters are still in their positions.

Radio Claims Amal-Palestinian Attacks Repulsed

NC2907063290 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 29 Jul 90

[Excerpts] Following the failure of the successive attacks they launched yesterday morning, 'Arafat's and Birri's gangs and a motley crew of party militiamen resumed their attacks on the Islamic resistance's positions at 1900 yesterday. These desperate attacks, which centered on Tallat Hamadah, were repulsed by the Islamic resistance which inflicted heavy losses on the attackers. The gangs of aggression failed to make any advance toward any Islamic resistance position. By 2010, the heroic fighters of the resistance had repulsed all the attacks mounted against them.

At 0300 today, 'Arafat's and Birri's gangs directed intensive artillery shellfire at several Iqlim al-Tuffah villages, particularly steadfast Kafr Milki. The destructive shelling lasted until 0700. Jarju' and Kafr Milki are currently coming under intermittent shelling. [passage omitted]

According to security reports, 22 gunmen from 'Arafat's and Birri's gangs were killed yesterday and over 83 people were wounded. Approximately 40 of the dead and wounded came from among 'Arafat's followers. [passage omitted]

Update on Fighting in Iqlim Al-Tuffah

NC2907100090 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0900 GMT 29 Jul 90

[Text] The truce requested by the Red Cross to evacuate casualties in Iqlim al-Tuffah has not materialized. The two parties, which had announced that they would honor the appeal, continued to engage in fierce battles around Kafr Milki, which appears to be the next victim after Jarju'. According to reports from the area, since yesterday the village has been turned into a battlefield, with its streets filled with debris, its approaches strewn with dead bodies, its houses empty of people, and gunmen dispersed everywhere exchanging heavy artillery and machine-gun fire.

According to the latest security reports, fierce battles between the Amal Movement and Hizballah are continuing, particularly around Kafr Milki, which is witnessing attempts by both sides to take control of the village. Citing security sources, REUTER reported that the Amal Movement and the Fatah Movement launched an attack on the village in which about 375 fighters took part. Hizballah repulsed the attack and retained control of the village, but Amal and the Palestinians have taken control of two strategic hills on the outskirts of the village, cutting Hizballah's supply routes.

The Amal Movement has announced that it has tightened its grip on Kafr Milki following heavy fighting. Hizballah, however, has said that it has so far repulsed all the attacks launched by Amal and the Palestinians,

the latest of which was at 0930 today. REUTER today reported that 45 people were killed and 90 wounded.

Fighting Continues; ICRC Appeals for Cease-Fire

NC2907151890 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1415 GMT 29 Jul 90

[Excerpt] Intermittent clashes are continuing in Iqlim al-Tuffah between the Amal Movement and Hizballah gunmen, particularly on Tallat Jurnaya and on the Kafr Milki combat lines, where the reports on the military situation are conflicting.

The Amal Movement has claimed that it is in control of Kafr Milki but Hizballah denied this, saying that Amal and the Palestinian disengagement force launched an attack on Tallat Hamadah which failed. A security source in the Amal Movement in the South said that the villages of 'Arab Salim, Jarju', Jurnaya, Kafr Hatta, Tallat Hamadah, (al-Tallat al-Sakhriyah), Humin al-Fawqa, Sarba, and 'Arab al-Jall were shelled and that seven citizens had been injured and more than 20 houses damaged. The same source denied that Hizballah had made any advance on Tallat Hamadah and (al-Tallat al-Sakhriyah), where Amal has tightened its control. The source added that the corpses of five Hizballah gunmen are still in the area.

Hizballah official Shaykh Muhammad Yazbik has said that Hizballah is ready for any dialogue that has as its aim the directing of the guns against Israel. He said that agreements have been concluded and called on Iran and Syria to sponsor a reconciliation.

In another development, the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC], which has been trying for several days now to get the two sides to allow its teams to evacuate the dead and injured, said this afternoon that it still cannot carry out its humanitarian mission. It reiterated its call to all parties concerned to listen to its urgent appeal to help the victims of the conflict and to respond to its demand for a humanitarian cease-fire.

REUTER cites security sources and eyewitnesses as saying that a collision is imminent in light of the influx of reinforcements to the area. The sources expect the next battle to be fiercer than the previous ones. [passage omitted]

Israeli Planes Fly Over Iqlim Al-Tuffah 29 Jul

NC2907164490 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 29 Jul 90

[Text] Israeli warplanes flew over the South and Iqlim al-Tuffah today.

Strafe Amal, Hizballah Positions

NC2907193890 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 29 Jul 90

[Text] Israeli warplanes have flown over the areas which are the scene of fighting and strafed the Amal Movement and Hizballah positions in Iqlim al-Tuffah, according to some reports.

[Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic at 1900 GMT on 29 July in a similar report says: "Israeli forces and agent militiamen shelled the positions held by the Amal Movement and Hizballah in Iqlim al-Tuffah."]

Lebanon's Al-Hirawi Meets With Al-Asad 26 Jul

NC2707054690 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 27 Jul 90

[Text] President of the Republic Ilyas al-Hirawi arrived in the Syrian capital unexpectedly yesterday. He held a round of talks with President Hafiz al-Asad, Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, and Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'. The talks centered on the [Lebanese] Government statement regarding implementation of the al-Ta'if agreement, the Lebanese parties' stands on the statement, and future steps to implement it.

Damascus Radio said President al-Asad stressed to President al-Hirawi his country's support for every resolution passed by the legitimate authority to help restore Lebanon's peace and stability.

Returns Home; Statement Issued

JN2707155890 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 27 Jul 90

[Text] Beirut—Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi returned home to Beirut today after a short visit to Damascus during which he met with President Hafiz al-Asad.

The Lebanese presidential office issued a statement saying that President al-Hirawi's talks in Damascus had dealt with the latest events and with the initiatives and decisions the Lebanese Government intends to take to spread security over all the Lebanese territory.

According to the statement, views on these issues were identical. The statement said that Syria reiterated total support for the efforts the Lebanese Government is making to spread the state's sovereignty, entrench peace, and realize stability.

Commentary Views Al-Hirawi Visit, Support

JN2707170290 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 27 Jul 90

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: Once more Syria stresses, through its leader al-Asad, support for the legitimate Lebanese Government and all the decisions it makes to restore Lebanon's security and stability. Once more Syria declares its agreement and accord with all that the legitimate Lebanese Government deems necessary to spread its authority over the whole Lebanese territory. This Syrian position is not new; it is known by all, who also realize its consistency and seriousness.

Ever since the Lebanese met in al-Ta'if and agreed on the national accord charter, Syria has supported their agreement with no reservations and repeatedly declared through its president, Hafiz al-Asad, that it supports the Lebanese in their efforts to attain national accord and spread the legitimate government's authority over the entire Lebanese territory. During Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi's first visit to Damascus after he took office, leader al-Asad announced that Syria was ready to fulfill any of the legitimate Lebanese Government's demands that would enable it to spread security, stability, and accord throughout Lebanon.

Syria also supported the statement the Lebanese Cabinet issued at the beginning of this month in which it defined the steps it intends to carry out to achieve national accord and spread the legitimate government's authority over Beirut as a first step toward spreading its authority over all of the Lebanese soil and establishing peace and security.

Yesterday, Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi returned to Damascus and held a lengthy meeting with the president, during which they discussed all aspects of the Lebanese situation, the positions of the various parties toward the Lebanese Cabinet statement, and the steps the Lebanese Government intends to undertake in order to achieve national accord and spread the legitimate government's authority. During this meeting, President al-Asad reaffirmed Syria's support for all the decisions made by the legitimate Lebanese Government for the sake of restoring security and stability to Lebanon. This reaffirmation is not new; as we have already pointed out, it is an entrenchment of an old position known to all the Lebanese since 1976, when President al-Asad announced that Syria's decision was to help Lebanon and the Lebanese maintain the unity of the Lebanese homeland—land and people—and assert their Arab identity and affiliation. President al-Asad's statements and positions have always been substantiated on the ground. This, too, is known and understood by all. When President al-Asad today promises to support the legitimate Lebanese Government's efforts to attain national reconciliation and provide security and stability for all the Lebanese in all Lebanese areas, it clearly means that Syria fully supports any decision by the Lebanese Government to reach this goal.

Restoring security, peace, and stability to Lebanon is the demand of every Lebanese citizen. It is also Syria's demand as much as it is Lebanon's demand. Moreover, this is the wish and dream of every loyal Lebanese except those who have personal designs and ambitions conflicting with the homeland's interest, and except the agents of Israel, which wishes Lebanon only further internecine fighting, dismemberment, and partition.

Palestine Broadcast on Tel Aviv Beach 'Message'

JN2907182990 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 29 Jul 90

[Palestine broadcast: "Talk of the Return"]

[Text] Brothers on the road of revolution and liberation: Never has Tel Aviv or any other city or settlement in the occupied land been immune to the blows of the valiant resistance mounted by our people, who are resolved to attain their rights and freedom. The arena of our conflict with the Zionists is not just the streets of Gaza, Rafah, Khan Yunus, Hebron, Nabulus, Jerusalem, and other towns, villages, and camps of the West Bank and Gaza

Strip. Indeed, the arena covers all of Palestine. It is wherever the arm of Palestinian activists can reach to slap the faces of the usurpers of their homeland and confiscators of their freedom and aggressors against their rights and freedom.

The blow the Zionists received on a Tel Aviv beach yesterday was a message that the Zionists shall not be able to intimidate our children in the West Bank and Gaza without their security being undermined in Tel Aviv, Haifa, Natanya, Ashdod, and other places. It will not be possible for the Zionists to deprive our people of the fun of swimming in our sea and enjoying the sun of our homeland while the herds of Zionist settlers foul the sea and land, maintain their campaigns of oppression and repression, and enjoy the landscape of our homeland. The whips of Zionist torture are bound to rebound on our enemies. Will our Zionist enemies grasp the lesson of this blow that they received in Tel Aviv, or will they persist indifferently in their injustices and tyranny? Whatever the conduct of the Zionists, our people understand that the one language the usurping enemy understands is armed struggle and dealing blows to their gangs. It is this language that is being spoken on the land of the conflict in the entire territory of our occupied homeland. The day will surely come when our enemy will understand that peace without justice will remain elusive, and that without the recognition of our people's rights, justice will remain a meaningless word.

Paper Urges Dialogue Between Iraq, Kuwait

JN2807074090 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 28 Jul 90

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Return to the Course of Pan-Arab Constants," AL-THAWRAH says in its editorial: At a time when the nation is suffering from an uncommon state of severe setbacks in which it has nearly lost its effectiveness and influence, thus allowing the enemy to act belligerently, challenge the nation, and disregard its rights; in this situation when there is a pan-Arab need for a comprehensive mobilization of forces and resources to maintain a minimum level of unity of stances and opinions in order to form a real solidarity that will stop the setback, we find strange paradoxes in some policies. In these policies, positions are adopted in accordance with strange mechanisms that serve the nation's enemies and their schemes. These policies are contrary to the line that should be followed to overcome the pan-Arab crisis. Any attempt to rectify these policies or bring them to account is questioned in terms of motives and goals, although it is very easy to uncover the schemes and mistakes of these policies.

AL-THAWRAH says: Syria once again reminds everyone of the basic facts that should be the major guidelines in our pan-Arab dealings. These facts are represented by highlighting pan-Arab issues over the regional issues, major issues over secondary ones, the sovereignty of the principle of dialogue over all our pan-Arab issues and bilateral differences, and restraint from escalating the situation until other channels become available.

AL-THAWRAH adds: Leader al-Asad affirmed his concern for not escalating the situation between Iraq and Kuwait. He underscored the need to resolve Arab differences through dialogue, because dialogue can achieve viable solutions and help to achieve Arab solidarity and common Arab action needed by the Arab nation. Al-Asad deeply and comprehensively realizes that dialogue is the only method that should be resorted to in order to resolve Arab differences. The other methods should be saved for our decisive battles for the sake of Palestine and in the conflict with Israel in order to extract all our national rights. The real battle and the real challenge are Palestine and the rights of the people of Palestine.

Afghanistan

Najibullah Leaves for 'Medical Check' in USSR

LD2907160090 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 29 Jul 90

[Text] The presidential office reports that esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, left this morning for the Soviet Union at the invitation of that country's authorities for a short visit and medical check.

AFP Reports Unscheduled Trip

BK3007002690 Hong Kong AFP in English 1726 GMT 29 Jul 90

[Text] Islamabad, July 29 (AFP)—President Najibullah left Afghanistan on Sunday for the Soviet Union, where he is to undergo a medical examination, Radio Kabul said. The trip, which was not previously announced, came three days before U.S. Secretary of State James Baker is to meet his Soviet counterpart Eduard Shevardnadze at Irkutsk, in Soviet Siberia, for talks on the Afghan conflict. Sources here said Mr. Najibullah's trip could be linked to the Irkutsk meeting Wednesday and Thursday [1 and 2 August], when according to U.S. press reports Moscow and Washington could announce an agreement on mutual disengagement from Afghanistan.

The state-run radio, monitored here, said that the 43-year-old president left Sunday afternoon for the Soviet Union "on the invitation of the Soviet Government" for a "medical check-up." It gave no further details.

Mr. Najibullah's last visit to the Soviet Union was on April 6, 1988, eight days before the Geneva accords, which led to the Soviet military withdrawal from Afghanistan the following February. Moscow still supplies large quantities of military aid to the Kabul government.

The United States, which supports the Afghan mujahidin resistance, has demanded that Mr. Najibullah cede certain key powers to a "neutral body" that would organize elections in Afghanistan.

The mujahidin have refused any settlement involving Mr. Najibullah, the former head of the Afghan secret service, denouncing him as a "war criminal."

Mujahidin To Seek Islamic Help for Reconstruction

BK2807001490 Hong Kong AFP in English 1728 GMT 28 Jul 90

[Text] Islamabad, July 28 (AFP)—The Afghan mujahidin delegation to an Islamic foreign ministers conference in Cairo will seek the formation of a special commission to aid reconstruction in Afghanistan, the resistance said Saturday. Reperesentatives of the Pakistan-based Afghan Interim Government (AIG), led by Reconstruction Minister Burhanuddin Rabbani, has left for the Egyptian capital to attend the conference opening Tuesday.

An AIG press release here said the delegation would also request the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) meeting to take measures to "counter the propaganda and diplomatic efforts against the mujahidin." The delegation would tell the OIC that the Soviet Union continued to support "the communist regime in Kabul with missiles and other sophisticated weapons," the AIG statement said.

Vice President Returns From Visit to Iraq

LD2707215490 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 27 Jul 90

[Excerpts] Vice President Abdul Rahim Hatif, who visited the Republic of Iraq as head of a delegation, returned home this morning. [passage omitted]

During his friendly visit to Iraq the vice president handed over a message from esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, to the His Excellency Saddam Husayn, president of Iraq, which was accepted warmly. The Iraqi president also pledged cooperation with the Republic of Afghanistan.

Official Reports 'Heavy Fighting' Near Kabul

BK2907145090 Hong Kong AFP in English 1414 GMT 29 Jul 90

[Text] Kabul, July 29 (AFP)—Heavy fighting between government troops and Afghan rebels raged in two regions near the capital Kabul as security forces moved to capture guerrilla strongholds, an official spokesman said here Sunday.

Intense artillery and aerial attacks were directed on positions of the mujahidin entrenched in Pashae Valley of the mountainous Paghman region, 20 kilometres (12 miles) northwest of here, the spokesman said. He said the fighting started about two weeks ago but troop advances were essentially slow because the entire region had been heavily mined by the mujahidin guerrillas.

The government had earlier claimed that it had dislodged the mujahidin from Paghman, used by the rebels as the main launching pad for their rocket attacks on Kabul, a city of 2.5 million people.

"Pashae Valley is the last postition of the opposition (mujahidin.) There is no denying that very heavy blows have been dealt on them," the Foreign Ministry spokesman said. He had no casualty figures of the past two weeks of fighting, but said security forces have captured large quantities of surface rockets, ammunition and explosives and destroyed several ammunition dumps of the guerrillas.

However, the rebels continued their rocket attacks on the capital and a 90-year-old woman was killed and six others, including two children, were seriously wounded in attacks on Kabul Saturday [28 July], the spokesman said. He said most of the rockets fell short of the

city-centre and residential areas and were now pounding farmlands because the guerrillas had been pushed back almost out of firing range.

Heavy fighting was also continuing in Musae, about 60 kilometres (35 miles) south of Kabul, where troops killed at least 22 rebels in the past four days of combat, the spokesman said.

The guerrillas backed by Saudi Arabia, the United States and Pakistan are battling to overthrow the communist government of President Najibullah, who was installed in Afghanistan after the 1979 invasion of the country by the Soviet Union. [as received]

At least a million people have lost their lives in the past 12 years of civil war.

Bangladesh

Ershad Says Election To Be Held as Scheduled

BK2707160890 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 27 Jul 90

[Text] President Ershad has said his government is determined to maintain a democratic and constitutional process for the greater interests of the nation. He was inaugurating a month-long new membership drive by the metropolitan unit of the Jatiya Party at its Motijheel office in Dhaka today. The president said the presidential election announced earlier will be held on time and it will be followed by parliamentary poll. He said his party aims at ensuring peace, stability and progress of the nation and saving the people from undemocratic forces. He said the party has emerged as the strongest and largest political organization in the country.

Seeks Presidential Nomination

BK2807164290 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 28 Jul 90

[Text] President Ershad has sought (?the formal) nomination of the Jatiya Party to contest presidential election next year. The president, who is also the chairman of the Jatiya Party, placed his formal request at a meeting of the district council chairmen from all the districts of the country, at the party office at Motijheel, this afternoon. The chairman of the district council supported the candidature of President Ershad with loud applause.

Vice President Moudud Ahmad, Deputy Prime Minister Shah Moazzam Hussain, the chief party coordinator of presidential election, LGRD [Local Government and Rural Development] Minister Naziur Rahman, and other senior party leaders and ministers also supported the presidential candidature.

Names New Ministers

BK2907162190 Hong Kong AFP in English 1559 GMT 29 Jul 90

[Text] Dhaka, July 29 (AFP)—President Hussain Mohammad Ershad Sunday reshuffled his cabinet to fill the gap left by a minister's death, state-run Bangladesh Television (BTV) reported.

Relief and Rehabilitation Minister Mamdudur Rahman Chowdhury was given the ports and shipping portfolio, a post that fell vacant following the death of Korban Ali on Monday [23 July] of intestinal bleeding.

Monzur Quader, state minister in the irrigation, water development and flood control ministry replaced Mr. Chowdhury, BTV added, without mentioning Mr. Quader's replacement.

All other ministries including home, finance and foreign affairs remained unchanged.

'Disjointed' Opposition Announces Joint Campaign

BK2907174190 Hong Kong AFP in English 1614 GMT 29 Jul 90

[Text] Dhaka, July 29 (AFP)—Bangladesh's disjointed opposition groups Sunday announced a joint campaign against President Hussain Mohammad Ershad and rejected his calls for dialogue on an acceptable election.

In separate rallies in downtown Dhaka, opposition leaders said their parties would sponsor mass demonstrations on August 26 to revitalise a "united campaign" to oust Mr. Ershad's government and to organize free and fair elections under a neutral caretaker government.

They repeated their charge that fair polls were not possible under Mr. Ershad's eight-year-old government, rejecting his proposal for dialogue on acceptable conditions for presidential elections due next year.

Begum Khaleda Zia, chairman of the leading opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), said Mr. Ershad's government had brought the country to ruin and urged security forces to join the anti-government campaign.

"The army, police and the other security agencies should act like they did during the country's independence war in 1971," she said. "You belong to the people and should not protect any individual."

Bangladesh, formerly East Pakistan, became independent in 1971 after a nine-month war.

Other opposition groups and alliances sponsoring the new campaign include the eight party alliance led by Sheikh Hasina Wajed's Awami League (AL), the rigtist Jamaat-e-Islami and the left-leaning five-party alliance.

Mr. Ershad, 60, who seized power in a 1982 bloodless coup, was Saturday [28 July] nominated by his ruling Jatiya Party as candidate in next year's presidential

elections. The opposition parties, bickering among themselves after briefly uniting in 1987, had boycotted the 1986 presidential and 1988 parliamentray elections alleging that the polls would be rigged. Abdus Samad Azad, a senior AL leader cautioned supporters and opposition colleagues that "unless we are united, Ershad cannot be ousted through democratic campaigns."

India

Commentary Hails Outcome of Singh's USSR Visit

BK2907111390 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 29 Jul 90

[Deva Prasad Das commentary: A Successful Visit]

[Text] Prime Minister Mr. Vishwanath Pratap Singh's four-day visit to the Soviet Union underlines the depth that Indo-Soviet relations have acquired over the decades. Mr. Singh was accompanied by a high-level delegation which included three union ministers—the finance minister, Mr. Madhu Dandavate; the commerce minister, Mr. Arun Nehru; and the external affairs minister, Mr. I.K. Gujral—besides the secretaries of the ministries of external affairs, finance, and defense.

The visit was the first after the momentous changes in Eastern Europe and also in the Soviet Union itself. This visit is also the first of the prime minister after a change in the political setup in India. Another significance of the visit is that it came when there were apprehensions in a section of the press and in the minds of the people about the Indo-Soviet relations following the changes in both countries.

The Indo-Soviet relations are marked with traditional ties over decades. It is needless to say that the edifice of the Indo-Soviet friendship built by several generations of Indian and Soviet statesmen has a firm and reliable foundation. The treaty of peace, friendship, and cooperation signed in 1971 and then the 1988 Delhi Declaration demonstrate an entirely new, philosophical, and political approach to the relations between India and the Soviet Union. Though the Delhi Declaration was developed by the two countries, its significance goes far beyond bilateral and regional boundaries. By visiting the Soviet Union at a time when apprehensions were apt to be (?there), the prime minister has obviously dispelled these apprehensions. He categorically stated in his banquet speech at Moscow and I quote: Friendship with the people of the Soviet Union is a part of the psyche of every Indian. It is now beyond partisan considerations. No change of government or policy can make a dent in it, unquote. This categorical assurance from the National Front government in New Delhi has been welcomed by Moscow.

The Soviet Union always attaches great significance to relations with India. In this regard, the Soviet president, Mr. Mikhail Gorbachev, said, and I quote: Soviet people appreciate Indian contribution to the peace and security of nations. The voice of millions of peace-loving Indians is listened to not only in Asia but far beyond its borders. The recognized leader of the Nonaligned Movement, India is doing much to consolidate and develop it. India has greater authority in the international arena where it invariably stands for a peaceful solution of problems, nuclear and total disarmament, equality and justice in political and economic relations. [no reference to end of quotation as heard]

The joint statement issued during the prime minister's visit shows that the Soviet Union, which is a superpower, continues to be in agreement with India's views on many issues. Both the countries accept in principle that no single state or a group of states, however powerful, can cope with all aspects of mankind's future well-being. The Soviet Union is in agreement with India's thrust for a more equitable world order in which the concerns of the developing countries could be paid a greater heed. This is clear from the call given in the joint statement to expand the disarmament process to cover other nuclear-weapon powers and to utilize the peace dividend for development and production of global environment.

On the problems of the Indian subcontinent, the prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh, during his talks with the Soviet leaders, scored his point. The Soviet Union had all along been supporting India's stand on Kashmir. During Mr. Singh's visit, the Soviet prime minister, Mr. Ryzhkov, categorically stated that his country does not approve interference in India's internal affairs. He said, and I quote: We proceed on the understanding that the territorial integrity and unity of India is something which requires no explanations, unquote.

The significant achievement of the prime minister's visit is the agreement to continue the rupee trade agreement for another five years with provision for its automatic renewal. The rupee trade agreement has proved to be of great value, particularly in time of foreign exchange crisis. The total trade turnover between the countries in 1989 was of the value of 69 billion rupees and annual trade plan protocol for 1990 envisages a turnover of 99 billion rupees. However, the parity of the rupee-ruble exchange rate is a complex issue which will be settled in due course. Another area of economic cooperation will perhaps be the service sector. India has made a beginning by constructing a few hotels in the Soviet Union. Both the countries have proposed to enter into a long-term trade agreement which is another welcome feature. A nodal agency is to come up to finalize the details.

Premier, Home Minister Speak on Punjab, Kashmir

BK2807163090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 28 Jul 90

[Text] The governors conference concluded its two-day deliberations in New Delhi this evening. The prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh; the deputy prime minister, Mr. Devi Lal; and several cabinet ministers apprised the governors of the center's approach to tackle various sensitive issues. The governors gave a brief resume of the situation in their states.

The home minister, Mufti Muhammad Sayeed, who also addressed the conference, reiterated the center's commitment to stamp out terrorism and not to compromise with the unity and integrity of the country. On Punjab, he said the government is keen to initiate the political process and added that a number of steps have been taken for the economic development of the state.

Describing the situation in Kashmir as difficult, the mufti said vigil on the border has been stepped up and anti-infiltration measures strengthened to deal with the situation. On the ULFA [United Liberation Front of Assam] activities, he said the Assam government has been asked to take firm measures to check violence being perpetrated by the group.

A report just received says that the prime minister has advocated two different approaches to be adopted while tackling the situation in Jammu and Kashmir and Punjab. One approach should apply for the secessionists and the other for general people. In his address to the governors conference in New Delhi today, Mr. V.P. Singh said the government will not fold together the secessionists and the people of the two states. The prime minister complimented the state governments for the steps they have taken in maintaining law and order in the face of heavy arms. At the same time, he underlined the need to draw a distinction between the secessionists and the people.

On the Babri Masjid-Ram Janambhoomi [shrine claimed by both Hindus and Muslims] issue, Mr. V.P. Singh said the government would stand by and uphold any judgment given by the court. If there is any attempt to subvert the court's order, the government will take a stand to uphold the judiciary, the prime minister declared.

State Home Minister Speaks

BK2907132390 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 29 Jul 90

[Text] The minister of state for home, Mr. Subodh Kant Sahay, has reiterated the government's resolve to repel with all its might any Pakistani attempt to pump arms or trained terrorists into the Indian territory. Talking to PTI [PRESS TRUST OF INDIA] in Ranchi today, he said the fundamentalists—Mujahidin group—(?are) responsible for aggravating the situation in the Kashmir Valley. Mr. Sahay said the center has directed the Jammu and Kashmir government to take all efforts to restore confidence among the masses.

On Punjab, Mr. Sahay reiterated the earnest intention of the prime minister to restore complete peace and amity in the strife-torn state. Referring to Rama Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid [disputed shrine claimed by both Hindus and Muslims] issue, Mr. Sahay said the Union Home Ministry will hold talks with the representatives of the Vishwa Hindu Parishad [World Hindu Council], the Rama Janmabhoomi Action Committee, and the Babri Masjid Action Committee separately tomorrow to evolve an amicable solution.

Bommai Urges Active Role for BJP, Left Parties

BK2807141790 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 28 Jul 90

[Text] The Janata Dal president, Mr. S.R. Bommai, has said that the active participation of the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] and the left parties in the National Front government is the need of the hour to solve problems like Punjab, Jammu and Kashmir, Assam and Ram Janambhoomi-Babri Masjid [disputed shrine claimed by both Hindus and Muslims] issue. Addressing a press conference in Bombay today, he said those are national issues and above party politics. He said active participation will enable all parties in better understanding in resolving the national issues. [sentence as heard] Mr. Bommai said he is in favor of involving the Congress-I to solve these problems from outside. There is a need for political consensus on national issues, he added.

BJP, CPI-M Decline Offer To Join Government

BK2907163590 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 29 Jul 90

[Text] The Bharatiya Janata Party [BJP] and the CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist] have ruled out the possibility of their joining the National Front government at the center. They reaffirmed that they would continue to support the V.P. Singh ministry from outside. Referring to Janata Dal President Mr. S.R. Bommai's offer in this regard, the West Bengal chief minister, Mr. Jyoti Basu, said that his party would stick to its earlier decision. The BJP general secretary, Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi, told newsmen in Bangalore today that there is no ground for his party to revise its decision of not to become a constituent of the National Front government.

Singh Reviews Situation With Kashmir Leaders

BK2907164290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 29 Jul 90

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh, today reviewed the latest political situation in Jammu and Kashmir with the senior state Janata Dal leaders at a luncheon meeting hosted by the home minister, Mufti Muhammad Sayeed, in New Delhi. The members of the Cabinet Committee for Political Affairs, Professor Madhu Dandavate, Mr. I.K. Gujral, including the Janata Dal president, Mr. S.R. Bommai, were also present during the discussions. The meeting lasted over two and half hours.

The home minister told our correspondent that the Janata Dal leaders from Jammu and Kashmir urged the prime minister to investigate allegations of excesses against the innocent people in the valley. The detenus [detainees] who were not involved in any terrorist act should be released after proper screening. They also drew the attention of the prime minister to the economic hardships being faced by the people who depend on tourism for their livelihood. They also demanded that a

crash employment scheme be launched in Kashmir to provide jobs to the youths and setting up of a technical engineering college. Other demands include giving scheduled tribe status to Gujjars, Bakarwas, and other backwards in the state.

The prime minister told the leaders that there could be no compromise with the secessionists and they would be dealt with firmly. Mr. V.P. Singh asked them to attend to people's grievances promptly and told them to draw a distinction between the subversives and the general public.

Premier, Cabinet Discuss 'Allegedly Forged Letter'

BK3007042090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 30 Jul 90

[Text] The union cabinet had a two-hour-long meeting in New Delhi last evening. Agencies report that the meeting mainly discussed the allegedly forged letter the deputy prime minister, Mr. Devi Lal, had forwarded to the prime minister last week. At the cabinet meeting, Mr. V.P. Singh, is understood to have taken strong position against attempts to malign ministers. Agencies say that the deputy prime minister clarified that he had been misled on the authenticity of the documents.

New Political Crisis Looms

BK3007042690 Hong Kong AFP in English 0400 GMT 30 Jul 90

[By M.R. Narayan Swamy]

[Text] New Delhi, July 30 (AFP)—India's coalition government appears to be heading towards another crisis, again involving its two top men, only two weeks after surviving a bout of turmoil that almost brought it down. The latest trouble is over a forged letter purportedly written by Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh attacking senior cabinet colleague Arun Nehru in November 1987, when both men were in the opposition.

The letter, addressed to President Ramaswamy Venkataraman, accused Mr. Nehru, currently the commerce minister, of being involved in a 1.3 billion dollars arms deal with Sweden's Bofors firm in 1986. The Bofors' arms deal has been surrounded by allegations that senior officials accepted bribes and commissions to see it through.

Deputy Prime Minister, Devi Lal, whose son's shock reinstatement as chief minister of Haryana state provoked a rash of cabinet resignations including that of Mr. Nehru and the prime minister a fortnight ago, sent a copy of the "letter" to Mr. V.P. Singh last week and demanded action against the commerce minister. The letter, which reached Mr. V.P. Singh just before he left for Moscow, has been dubbed a forgery by both the Prime Minister's and President's Offices, sparking fresh bickering within India's main ruling party.

Newspapers reported Sunday that an angry Mr. Nehru and a handful of other ministers had asked Mr. V.P. Singh the night before to sack his 75-year-old deputy, who was now said to be very apologetic.

Mr. Lal, a wrestler-turned-politician, has indicated that he was unsure about the authenticity of the letter and despatched it to the premier as it "came my way." He did not say how he obtained it.

THE TRIBUNE daily said Mr. V.P. Singh, 59, who took office barely eight months ago on a clean government ticket, was under "tremendous pressure" to sack his ambitious deputy from the cabinet. Other newspapers carried similar reports, with THE PATRIOT saying in a front-page story that Mr. Lal might be sacked before Parliament convenes here August 7.

Other reports added that Mr. V.P. Singh had ordered the federal Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to probe who forged the letter and his signature.

"Yes, we are heading to one more problem," said a top leader of Mr. V.P. Singh's Janata Dal (People's Party), the dominant partner in the National Front government and to which both the premier and his deputy belong.

"Everyone feels that Devi Lal is running amok," added the party official who asked not to be named. "The prime minister is not happy. Ministers are also hurt. All this is causing embarassment (for the government)."

Added a Janata Dal MP: "The prime minister is angry because his name has been dragged in a controversy... Imagine the deputy PM forging a letter of the PM and sending it to the PM himself?"

Janata Dal sources said the latest turmoil was the natural outcome of Mr. Lal's animus towards Mr. Nehru, who was among the first to publicly revolt over the astonishing rehabilitation of the former's son, Om Prakash Chautala. Mr. Chautala, Mr. Lal's eldest and favourite son, was reinstated by his father as chief minister of northern Haryana State July 12—51 days after he had to resign following charges of engineering election violence. Mr. Nehru and two other colleagues quit the next day, questioning the appointment and inspiring an avalanche of protests, which led Mr. V.P. Singh and 10 other ministers to resign.

The crisis almost brought down the National Front government before Mr. Chautala himself stepped down July 16. Mr. V.P. Singh later rejected Mr. Lal's suggestion that he accept Mr. Nehru's resignation. Since then, Mr. Lal has levelled corruption charges against Mr. Nehru and accused him of conspiring with the right-wing Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) against the National Front government.

Janata Dal sources said Mr. Lal's outbursts against Mr. Nehru were being seen as attacks on Mr. V.P. Singh, who along with the latter left the Congress (I) Party of former Premier Rajiv Gandhi three years ago. The sources added that Mr. Lal would have to apologise to Mr. Nehru and Mr. V.P. Singh if he wanted to remain the deputy premier.

"It is certainly a serious crisis," Muquimuddin Farooqi of the Communist Party of India (CPI) said in a brief interview. "I think there are some crooks around Devi Lal who are doing all this."

"The internal squabbles of the Janata Dal have brought the National Front government into total disrepute," said the BJP's Murli Manohar Joshi, adding: "It has raised questions about the government's credibility."

Both the BJP and the Communists provide crucial support to Mr. V.P. Singh's minority government, and had rallied behind the prime minister during the earlier crisis.

Further Reportage on Assam Hostage Situation

Crisis 'Partially Resolved'

BK2807081690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 28 Jul 90

[Text] In Assam, the 12-day-long hostage crisis was partially resolved yesterday with the court ordering the release of two of the three activists of ULFA [United Liberation Front of Assam] whose release the organization had demanded in exchange of the kidnapped Guwahati Refinery general manager, Mr. H.K.L. Das, and two others. Sitting late in the evening, the court heard a petition and passed orders for the release of the two ULFA prisoners held in the Guwahati jail. Informed sources say the third ULFA activist whose release is also being sought is to be worked out. [sentence as heard] Earlier, the ULFA threatened to kill the hostages if three of their members were not released by midnight tonight.

Three ULFA Men Released

BK2907092590 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 29 Jul 90

[Text] In Assam, three ULFA leaders were released from jail after midnight last night as the state government capitulated to the organization's demand to set free their hostages. The Guwahati refinery general manager, Mr. H.K.L. Das; his son Amarnath, and driver Anup Doara—kidnapped by ULFA men on the 16th of this month—are yet to be set free. They are likely to be released any time from now. The ULFA had reportedly demanded a 12-hour time gap between the release of three of their leaders and the release of the hostages.

Leftists Free Hostages

BK2907113890 Hong Kong AFP in English 1107 GMT 29 Jul 90

[Text] New Delhi, July 29 (AFP)—Left-wing rebels in India's rugged northeast Sunday freed an oil executive and two other men kidnapped 14 days ago, hours after three jailed rebels were released in a swap. The United Liberation Front of Assam (ULFA) freed H.K.L. Das, general manager of a state-owned oil company, his son Amarnath and driver Anup Duara in Assam State after midday, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) said. Armed ULFA activists brought the three, who looked hearty, to Mr. Das's home in Guhawati City in vehicles which sped away immediately, reporters at the scene were quoted as saying.

The release came hours after three jailed ULFA members whose release was demanded by the group were taken by the authorities to an undisclosed place in exchange for the kidnapped men, PTI said. The three rebels were earlier set free by an Assam court.

The release of Mr. Das, his son and Mr. Duara marked the end of a 14-day ordeal during which the left-wing group proved its might in the oil-rich state of Assam, bordering Bangladesh and Bhutan. Mr. Das heads the state-run Indian Oil Corp.'s Guhawati refinery.

The ULFA, which is fighting violently to set up a "sovereign, socialist Assam," has staged several daring attacks in recent times in the state governed by a partner of India's National Front coalition government.

Delhi Confirms Release

BK2907130990 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 29 Jul 90

[Text] In Assam, the 14-day-old hostage crisis came to an end this afternoon with the release of the general manager of Guwahati refinery, Mr. H.K.L. Das; his son Mr. Amarnath Das; and driver Mr. Anup Doara (?by) the ULFA at Guwahati. Official sources said that they were dropped unhurt at the residence of Mr. Das in the refinery campus at around 1450. The vehicle in which they were brought sped away after dropping them. The three were held captive by the ULFA activists since 16th of this month after kidnapping them from the refinery campus when Mr. Das was on his way to office. Immediately after the kidnapping, ULFA demanded the release of three of their activists in exchange for three hostages. As already reported, the state government last night released three leaders of ULFA following a court order. The state home minister, Mr. Bhrigu Kumar Phukan, visited the residence of Mr. Das immediately after his release and inquired after his health.

Gunmen Kill Senior Police Officer

BK2907150990 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 29 Jul 90

[Excerpts] In Assam, the 14-day-old hostages crisis came to an end this afternoon with the release of the general manager of Guwahati refinery, Mr. H.K.L. Das, his son, and the driver. They were dropped at Mr. Das' official residence at the refinery campus in Guwahati at around 1450. Mr. Das and two others were taken hostages by the ULFA [United Liberation Front of Assam] on the 16th of this month. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, unidentified gunmen today shot dead Mr. Daulat Singh, superintendent of police of the Dibrugarh District, his personal security officer, and the driver this

afternoon around 1500 near Lahowal in Dibrugarh District. Official sources in Guwahati said that Mr. Singh, accompanied by his personal security officer, was coming from Chhabua to Dibrugarh, while miscreants coming on a jeep stopped the vehicle and opened fire indiscriminately, killing all the three on the spot. Senior police officers immediately rushed to the spot and started a massive manhunt to apprehend the culprits. The chief minister, Mr. Prafulla Kumar Mahanta, and the home minister, Mr. Bhrigu Kumar Phukan, condemned the killing.

Minister Resigns Over Murder

BK3007021590 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0035 GMT 30 Jul 90

[Text] In Assam, the home minister, Mr. Bhrigu Kumar Phukan, is reported to have resigned. According to agency reports, Mr. Phukan has submitted his resignation to the chief minister, Mr. P.K. Mahanta late last night accepting moral responsibility for the killing of the Dibrugarh superintendent of police, Mr. Daulat Singh, and two others by unidentified gunmen yesterday.

Curfew Imposed on Sopor Town After Bomb Blast

BK2707162090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 27 Jul 90

[Text] In the Kashmir Valley, curfew was imposed in Sopor Town from 0500 this morning as a precautionary measure following a bomb blast in which the first floor of a market was completely gutted and some residential houses were damaged. An official spokesman in Srinagar said this evening that a court of inquiry has ordered into the allegations that the CRPF [Central Reserve Police Force] did not allow fire tenders in Sopor to operate.

Yesterday, one person was killed in cross firing in Azamgarh, Sopor, while terrorists shot dead a principal of a higher secondary school in Baramula District. An unidentified body was recovered from River Jhelum in Mura, Uri. In Anantnag District, terrorists shot dead a kidnapped person. The security forces today killed three terrorists in the five-km border belt in the valley.

Meanwhile, day curfew in Jammu City has been lifted from today. Curfew will however continue from 2000 this evening to 0500 tomorrow as a precautionary measure. Complete normalcy has been restored in the city. Night curfew in Bhadarwah Town of Doda District is to continue as a precautionary measure.

Iran

France Releases Lebanese Terrorist, Accomplices

Group Arrives in Tehran

NC2707212690 Paris AFP in English 2122 GMT 27 Jul 90

[Text] Tehran, July 27 (AFP)—Pro-Iranian terrorist Anis Naqqash and four of his accomplices pardoned by French President Francois Mitterrand after serving jail terms for the attempted murder of the late shah's last premier arrived here late Friday.

Journalists waiting at Tehran airport were not allowed to interview the five men who arrived at 11.15 p.m. (1945 GMT) and, according to an informed source, were welcomed by foreign ministry officials.

Security forces were not present, and the five left for an unknown destination aboard two foreign ministry cars.

Tehran Reports Arrival

NC2807060890 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 28 Jul 90

[Text] Anis Naqqash and four others who had been sentenced to life imprisonment in 1980 for an assassination attempt against Shapur Bakhtiar, the last prime minister of the idolatrous Iranian regime, in France were released yesterday at the orders of French President Francois Mitterrand. According to IRNA, these persons arrived in Tehran last night.

Release Favorable for European Hostages

NC2807090690 Paris AFP in English 0858 GMT 28 Jul 90

[Excerpts] Tehran, July 28 (AFP)—France's release from jail Friday of a Lebanese terrorist could "add to the optimism" for the imminent release of one or two European hostages in Lebanon, a pro-government newspaper said here Saturday.

The English-language TEHRAN TIMES, which serves as a mouthpiece for the government of President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, also called on other Western countries, notably West Germany, to follow the French example.

French President Francois Mitterrand on Friday pardoned Anis Naqqash and four other pro-Iranian terrorists who had been jailed in France for their aborted attempt to assassinate former Iranian Prime Minister Shapur Bakhtiar in 1980. Mr. Naqqash, who had completed 10 years of a life term, was flown here from Paris Friday aboard an Iran Air plane and met by Iranian Foreign Ministry officials who escorted him to an unspecified location.

"The move by France can partially alleviate the grievances the Lebanese Moslems rightfully hold against the West. The French move can be even expected to add to the optimism that has been created for the release of one or two European hostages," the newspaper said. [passage omitted]

"Other Western governments should take the example of France and add to the atmosphere of understanding and mutual acts of goodwill in the region," the TEHRAN TIMES said.

"The West German Government, too, for instance, can make a humanitarian move by freeing the Hamadi brothers held in prison for the past several years in that country," it suggested.

"Such acts of goodwill by Western governments can certainly reduce the snags in the way for finding an ultimate solution to the hostage issue," it said.

"Such moves can also facilitate the Islamic Republic's humanitarian efforts to convince the Lebanese groups to free the hostages," the newspaper said in reference to Iran's past efforts in securing the release of hostages from Lebanon. [passage omitted]

Describing the release of Naqqash as a "welcome move" that could "be taken as a rapprochement of some sort towards the Lebanese Moslems," the TEHRAN TIMES said that it was now up to the West to make a "goodwill gesture."

"Iran's continuous and one-sided efforts in solving the hostage issue in Lebanon have not been reciprocated by the West," it said.

"In spite of their repeated display of goodwill which was pratically demonstrated by their freeing some Western hostages in recent months, the Lebanese Moslems have not seen any act of goodwill on the part of the West," it added. [passage omitted]

Release 'Humanitarian' Gesture

LD2807092190 Tehran IRNA in English 0357 GMT 28 Jul 90

[Text] Tehran, July 28, IRNA—Anis Naqqash, a Lebanese Muslim combatant and four of his associates who spent 10 years in a Paris jail arrived here aboard an Iranian airliner Friday night right after being released from prison. Upon arrival at Tehran's Mehrabad International Airport, Naqqash met and held talks with Deputy Foreign Minister for Euro-American Affairs Mahmud Va'ezi.

The French Ministry of Justice in a brief statement Friday afternoon said that the five prisoners had been pardoned and were to leave the French soil after the release.

Naqqash and the four others, Mehdi Nejad-Tabrizi, Mohammad Javad Janab (Iranian nationals), Fawzi Mohammad al-Sattari and Selaheddin Mohammad Alkara [names as received], were arrested in July 1980 and sentenced to life in prison after an attempt on the life of Shahpur Bakhtiar, the last prime minister of the defunct shah.

A spokesman for the Iranian Embassy in Paris contacted by IRNA on Friday described release of the five as a "humanitarian and positive gesture by the French Government." On whether Naqqash's release will have a positive impact on Tehran-Paris relations, he said as Iranian authorities have repeatedly stated Naqqash issue had never been considered as a hindrance on improvement of bilateral relations. However, the spokesman added, from [a] psychological point of view, it is obvious that the move will greatly affect the process of expansion of bilateral ties.

In the unsuccessful attempt on Bakhtiar, a French citizen and a policeman were killed while another French citizen was injured.

OPEC Meeting 'Successful,' 'Unprecedented'

LD2807120890 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1056 GMT 28 Jul 90

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] The 87th formal meeting of the OPEC oil ministers ended its work in Geneva yesterday by agreeing to the base price of at least $21 per barrel for oil and setting the production ceiling at 22,491 million barrels for the remaining months of the year 1990.

This OPEC session was held in the absence of any kind of crisis, and as such it was a successful and unprecedented meeting in the recent years. Its result is regarded as a major victory for the oil-exporting countries.

In the opinion of prominent oil experts, the accord signed in Geneva yesterday by the oil ministers of all 13 OPEC member-states can open a chapter for a new era of understanding and cooperation in the 30-year lifespan of OPEC. This is particularly true following the bitter experience of the crash in oil prices in the middle of the last decade, which was a result of a lack of understanding within OPEC. Now the unanimous agreement among all OPEC members on increasing the price of oil can herald the hope that the oil-exporting countries once again will act to free themselves from the major problems facing their economies. [passage omitted]

It must be remembered that the previous price of $18 per barrel for OPEC oil, while much lower than its real value or its purchasing power, was often unattainable because of the lack of stability in the oil market, itself the result of a glut in the oil market. Thus oil-exporting countries sustained irreparable losses. [passage omitted]

It is also interesting to note that during the past few months the oil market was weak; according to surveys at hand since the beginning of the current Christian year, the price of oil has fallen by around 25-30 percent. That means a reduction of $5-7 billion in the oil income of OPEC members. To prevent a fall in price, OPEC members met early last May in Geneva, where they agreed collectively to reduce 1,445,000 barrels per day from their output. However, since the United Arab Emirates and Kuwait violated the terms of that agreement, OPEC failed to achieve its aim here. Until two weeks ago, OPEC output was more than 23 million barrels per day; and the average price of a barrel of oil on the world markets was around $15.

However, now the price of oil has fallen by around $5 per barrel. This is due to the achievement of an agreement

that itself was the result of the proximity of views among the highest-ranking authorities of the OPEC member-states, as well as the serious efforts put in by the oil ministers of that organization. At their 87th session, the OPEC oil ministers appointed two groups to be responsible for overseeing that the members stick to their production output. This will insure that henceforth all members will adhere to their production quotas, and as a result prices will remain firm.

Oil Minister Interviewed

LD2807193790 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1700 GMT 28 Jul 90

[Text] [Announcer] With the conclusion of the 87th OPEC session in Vienna, our oil minister, Mr. Aqazadeh, returned to Tehran a few moments ago. We asked him to take part in an interview in our news room studio:

[Correspondent] Greetings to you, Mr. Aqazadeh. Would you please inform us of the details of the recent OPEC session, as well as the results achieved from it?

[Aqazadeh] In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful. In my opinion and also as confirmed by the principle international news agencies, this session was ranked as one of the most exceptional OPEC sessions, almost unprecedented in the history of OPEC. With regard to the significance of that session, there are various aspects which could be mentioned briefly. First, the setting of the base rate of U.S. $21—which had been kept at the fixed rate of $18 for the past four years—is a very successful achievement. Second, in connection with OPEC's long-term policies, there is a point in this statement which, in my view, is even more significant than the base rate of $21. In that statement, we decided that in connection with a price increase, we should gradually from this date on—whenever there is a new demand, or whenever we wish to increase the ceiling—take the price [increase] into consideration simultaneous with that of the OPEC base rate which should also be increased. This means that from now on we will gradually have a constant increase in price as well as a base rate. Third, in that session, a problem which was fortunately resolved after many years was that of the OPEC members' quota. You are probably aware of the many problems which we faced in this connection in the course of our previous sessions—whenever we reached a decision in any of those sessions, as a result of nonobservance of the quotas, we were faced with many problems in OPEC. But fortunately, this problem has been resolved once and for all in this session.

Regarding other issues: To provide a sufficient guarantee of observance of the quotas, we decided in that session to stipulate in the statement that the decision reached in the recent session should, in fact, act as a guarantee with the backing of the highest-ranking delegations of the member countries, in other words, the governments of those countries. Furthermore, we have divided OPEC into two groups, each group of those ministers should directly monitor the production of the members every month by using independent foreign sources as well as the intelligence sources within OPEC. Responsibility for one of these groups has been given to me. We are to monitor the production of the OPEC members on a regular monthly basis. On the whole, I consider this sesison to have been very beneficial to our country and our country's economy, and as I mentioned in the beginning, this has been one of OPEC's exceptional sessions.

[Correspondent] Mr. Aqazadeh, what impact could this 87th session and the agreement on the $21 a barrel base rate, produce in our country's economy?

[Aqazadeh] This is a very good question. I will give you one example which is that the increase of $1 on every barrel could increase our country's earnings by $1 billion a year. This means that in relation to the previous $18 OPEC base rate, which we have today increased by $3, our country's earnings will increase by $3 billion only in connection with that decision. We must also remember that before that session we had a price of $13 about three weeks ago, and the attainment of the base rate of $21 is an extraordinary phenomenon which will certainly have a very direct impact on our country's earnings, and the opportunities which will be created, God willing.

[Correspondent] Mr. Aqazadeh, for a long time we have seen how the OPEC members always reached a situation of noncooperation and absence of agreements in the sessions. They did not always achieve positive results. However, the outcome of the recent session was positive, and all-round cooperation was reached. Will you please tell us what factor was the catalyst in this development?

[Aqazadeh] I would say that, as you have just mentioned, such cooperation among the OPEC members in the course of an OPEC session was exceptional. All OPEC members cooperated, and all their efforts were aimed at the realization of this issue. However, I should mention that in that session, in view of the recent conditions prevailing as a result of our peace with Iraq—which had a significant impact—it was fully evident that the cooperation between Iran and Iraq had a significant role in achieving that agreement.

[Correspondent] Thank you very much for taking part in this studio interview.

[Aqazadeh] I would also like to express my greetings to our dear people for this successful achievement.

President Delivers Arabic Friday Sermon 27 Jul

NC2707161790 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1125 GMT 27 Jul 90

[Friday prayers sermon in Arabic by President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani in Tehran on 27 July—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful. Praise be to God and peace be upon God's prophet and his kinfolk, and God's pious believers.

There is no doubt that the subject of oil and oil prices is the topic of the hour. The OPEC oil ministers are currently holding talks in order to fix a price. This issue is undoubtedly among the most important topics in the world, particularly for the Islamic nations, in whose lands most of the world's oil is stored. This is so because most of the oil produced by OPEC and non-OPEC members belongs to Muslims.

The Muslims of the world are not fully aware that the colonialists and arrogant ones are plundering a major portion of the wealth of the Muslims by keeping the oil price low. If we say that the Islamic countries export 30 million barrels a day to the industrial states; and if we then say that each barrel is sold for $10 less than its real price—this means it is sold at a very low price—we can conclude that $300 million of the wealth of the deprived and oppressed Muslim peoples in the world goes into the pockets of the hostile capitalists in the advanced states every day. This means that more than $100 billion goes to these countries every year. In the meantime, we see that the developed countries give meager assistance or loans not exceeding a few million dollars and in exchange impose their own capitulationary conditions, which go against independence, in a bid to gain privileges.

By a simple calculation, it is clear to all that arrogance has turned the wealth of the Islamic world into a tool to keep the Third World under its hegemony. The extent of this catastrophe becomes evident when we realize that the scanty sums we receive from the sale of oil are spent on manufactured goods sold at double their real prices. The fact is that the production of these goods comes from oil and its by-products and from the other raw materials and resources looted from the Third World countries.

We know that, by using this economic pretext, the West succeeded in defeating the communist bloc, breaking up the Warsaw Pact, and turning the Kremlin into a member of the Western bloc. The Soviet Union has enormous petroleum wealth. However, it is losing hundreds of millions of dollars by selling oil and gas cheaply while, instead, it could have cooperated with the eastern countries in the Islamic world, such as Iran, Libya, and Algeria, in benefiting from these great assets. By so doing, it would not have had to be humiliated before the West by giving many concessions in Germany, the Baltic Sea, the Balkans, Latin America, East Asia, and the Middle East in exchange for a few billions.

These explanations reveal to us the extent of the great blows dealt by small countries in the Persian Gulf to the Third World and the Islamic world by the production and sale of a large quantity of oil at a cheap price. They also reveal the extent of the great service they rendered to their colonial masters. I hope the OPEC oil ministers who are currently meeting will come up with fruitful recommendations and observations in order to make a suitable decision that will safeguard the interests of the Islamic countries. I hope that those who were stabbing the Muslims in the back will pay attention, repent, and pursue the safe and secure road. An appropriate way must be found so that the oil plunderers and the manipulators of the price of the dollar and other currencies are not able to turn the changing oil price to their own advantage.

Another regrettable issue is the ongoing painful situation in southern Lebanon, where the Muslims are killing and destroying each others, thus serving the interests of the enemies of Islam, particularly Israel, the aggressor and the usurper. Therefore, I hope the Muslims there will follow reason. We appeal to God to save them from falling into hands of the the devil. We also hope the fighting will not cause further damage to the Islamic world and Lebanon. What arouses astonishment is the fact that some Palestinian troops, in coordination with the Israelis, are acting against the interest of Islam in Lebanon.

Peace be upon those who follow the truth. In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful. Say: He is God, the One and Only; God, the Eternal, Absolute. He begetteth not, nor is He begotten; and there is none like unto Him. [Koranic verse] Peace and God's mercy be upon you.

Speaks on Oil Prices, Lebanon

LD2707152590 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1209 GMT 27 Jul 90

[Second Friday prayers sermon by President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani at Tehran University on 27 July—recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] I shall refer to two brief topics; brief but important. Then I shall talk on the occasion of Muharram [first month of the Arabic lunar calendar]. I am personally inclined to talk more on Muharram and 'Ashura [mourning day commemorating martyrdom of Imam Husayn]. But since these topics are important I believe it is necessary to talk about them. One is the issue of OPEC and the price of oil. At present oil ministers of the OPEC member-states are meeting in session in Geneva talking to find ways of achieving the rights of the victimized peoples of the oil producing countries. I expanded on that issue in my Arabic version because our addressees here are mainly Arabs. Now I briefly explain it for you to see how important it is and how much we are making losses. I will try to draw a small picture in your mind.

Today roughly some 30 million barrels of oil are exported from the Islamic countries—whether those in the OPEC or otherwise—to other countries, mainly industrialized countries. If we assume that we sell each barrel of the 30 million barrels at a price $10 cheaper [than the real price], then it means that daily we are offering $300 million free to the industrial countries. Yet, we sell our oil cheaper than that.

In reality the price of a barrel of oil today is not 20 tumans [currency as heard] or 30 tumans. Once we know what by-products can be derived from the oil and what an impact it has on industry and once we know what role it plays in the world, then [we can say] if that commodity

was in the possession of the industrial, advanced, and colonialist countries most certainly they would have charged us $100 or $200 a barrel for it. Indeed, they are selling industrial goods derived from it at very high prices to us. That is, sometimes they transform one liter of oil into industrial commodities and sell them to us at $100, $200, $500, $1,000, or even more. Well, the expenses they sustain in the processing is very small.

Unfortunately, the world of Islam and the oil producing countries have failed to achieve their rights. Now we may assume that oil is underpriced by $10 [per barrel]. You must remember that at the beginning of the revolution its price rose to $36, $37, to $40. It was wrong to lower its price. If we base our calculation on underpricing it by $10 it means $300 million a day [lost income] and more than $100 billion a year—a little more than $100 billion a year. [passage omitted]

Yet, using that same lever—the $100 billion they take out of our pockets—they wreak so much havoc on us. In other words, such a financial power which is landed free of charge on the lap of the industrial countries is used by them against us. They are holding sway over the entire world by using that lever. They are ruling the world by using that lever which is from our wealth—of course it is through their own technology. But anybody who has technology must pay a price for commodities and markets and other things.

As an example I will cite the case of the Soviets. Indeed it is a very strange phenomenon for me. I cannot understand why the Russians have behaved in that fashion. Russia is like us; daily she produces more than 10 million or more than 12 million barrels of oil, as well as a vast quantity of gas. And like us they are giving their oil and gas at lov prices to the Westerners. At present you can see that for the sake of $10 of $15 billion in loans from the West, how much the government of Russia [USSR] is humbling itself. She is giving concessions in Germany; she is giving concessions in Latin America; she is giving concessions in Asia; she is giving concessions in the Middle East—all these concessions for the sake of receiving some $15 billion in loans. I cannot understand why that great power of the world does not think of achieving its own rights; why does she not sell her oil at realistic prices?

If the USSR could align itself with OPEC or with several countries—and several countries are ready for such an alignment, among them we are ready, the Iraqis are ready, Libya and Algeria are ready—then she could say together with those countries that they would sell their oil at a price not below $30 [per barrel]. In that case the world will really buy it at that price. If we stop selling for one month, the world will have to buy.

The world is forced to buy because they cannot close down their plants, their power stations, or stop their vehicles. However, they [oil producing countries] do not do so. They are giving their wealth away for nothing and yet for a handful of dollars they bow to the West and belittle themselves. The same kind of blow is dealt on us as well. Two or three states in the southern shore of the Persian Gulf, relying on the West, are committing a great traeson and are responsible for a great catastrophe befalling the world of Islam.

They [the West] usually benefit from divisions within our ranks, for our quarrels. You can witness what a great step was taken as soon as a little [thaw] appeared in relations between the Iraqis and ourselves, and as soon as we began to talk and correspond and when we [Iran and Iraq] began to move in the same direction—the oil which was $13 to $14 has now risen to $19 and $20 during these same few days. Perhaps it may have a better future. All that because of a little cooperation among us.

The OPEC ministers now sitting there [in Geneva] have a grave responsibility. It is not the money which is important but the hegemony which ensues from it. The said $100 billion which we give the West for nothing is transformed into industrial goods for which they charge us $300 billion. [passage omitted]

We must think about these topics. We hope Islamic countries, our neighbors, will exercise more care and more Islamic ways in dealing with that issue; they must be more trustworthy and not allow such treason to be committed against the Islamic countries.

Another issue which we have and which is a very bitter issue, is the issue of Lebanon. Unfortunately, two groups of Shiites are at each other's throats, are shelling and killing one another. Even a more bitter fact is to see that some Palestinian factions and some Lebanese forces unite with one another on the side of Israel against Islam in Lebanon and collaborate with one another. There can be no explanation for it except that they are afraid of Islam, are afraid of Muslims, and do not wish to see the sovereignty of Islam. There cannot be any other explanation for it. People are not the problem, it is their thoughts which are a problem [as heard]. We hope that they will not disgrace themselves any more before God and will give up this quarrel, and will cooperate with one another against the threats which threaten the region. [passage omitted]

Tehran Reports Sermons

LD2707125290 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 27 Jul 90

[Text] Our Muslim compatriots, infatuated with the household of Mohammad, peace be on him and his scion, were present at the Friday prayer sites throughout the country on the first Friday of the month of Muharram [first month of Arabic lunar calendar]—the month in which blood was victorious over the sword—to hold the immortal Mohammadan tradition [of Friday prayers] and to honor the martyrdom anniversary of the lord of the martyrs, His Holiness Husayn Ibn 'Ali, peace be on him, as well as his 72 faithful comrades-in-arm.

In Tehran, meanwhile, the Friday prayer ceremonies were held at Tehran University and the adjacent streets in the presence of the mass of the faithful Hezbollah ummah and under the leadership of Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

Following the performance of religious and mourning ceremonies, the president, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, in his Friday prayer sermons explained various problems of the country and the Islamic regime as well as the 'Ashura event ['Ashura is on 10th of Muharram]. Then referring to the anniversary of the first Friday prayers in our Islamic country, the acting Friday prayer leader of Tehran stressed: People must honor this divine legacy and also the grand sociopolitical project of the Islamic regime by continuing to attend the Friday prayers and by forming a united line.

Praising the efforts and struggles of His Eminence Ayatollah Taleqani, the first Friday prayer leader of Tehran, he said: After the victory of the Islamic revolution the Friday prayer assemblies have always been pathfinders for solutions to the problems of our society.

The president then referred to the OPEC Ministerial Conference in Geneva and, stressing the need to increase the price of oil on the world market, said: Islamic countries, whether member-states of OPEC or otherwise, are sending daily around $300 million of free oil to the industrial and wealthy countries of the world. He added: If that God-given wealth was in possession of the industrial and great countries of the world, they would most certainly never sell it at a price less than $100 a barrel. Indeed, at present they sell manufactured goods at high prices to the countries of the Third World. By that calculation, the oil-producing countries, by selling their oil cheaply, are giving $100 billion of free oil annually to the industrial countries. In reality, they lose at least $100 billion.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani invited the authorities of the oil-producing countries throughout the world to close ranks to stop selling their oil cheaply. He asked them not to let more treason be committed against their nations.

Continuing his remarks the president referred to recent clashes in Lebanon and part of Palestine. Condemning these clashes he asked the two parties to abandon fractricide and confrontation with each other.

Hojjat-ol Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani then explained the tragic 'Ashura event and the uprising of His Holiness Imam Husayn, peace be on him, against the infidel rule of Bani 'Umayyad and said: Muharram is an important historic and lasting occasion for us Muslims—both in relation to guidance and inspiration which it gives and also on account of its social and historical heritage. Ever since the Iranian nation acquainted itself with that history and with Muharram, this month has become a very emotional time for us. He stressed that His Holiness Imam Husayn, peace be on him, was fully aware of the fate that awaited him when he decided to rise [against Bani 'Umayyad] and migrate. He said that the 'Ashura event was a crusading event, instructed by God, to be conducted against tyranny, aggression, and illegitimate rule. That was a pattern for crusade and for campaign against the rule of Taghut [tyrant], and as such it must be part of human history. He also referred to the real philosophy of 'Ashura from the point of view of justice and said: The appearance of that event succeeded in achieving its mission, which was the overthrow of the house of Bani 'Umayyad. In reality, meanwhile, its message was communicated through human history and left its impact through the ages. These mourning ceremonies we witness are a part of the fruit which that great divine tree, planted in history, bears.

On the occasion of Gendarmerie Day, the president honored the self sacrifices of the personnel of the Gendarmerie of the Islamic Republic of Iran. He stressed that after the Islamic revolution the Gendarmerie of the Islamic Republic of Iran achieved a great deal of enlightenment, and today it is one of the trustworthy forces of the regime.

Yazdi Warns Against Efforts To 'Overthrow' System

NC2707064590 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 27 Jul 90

[Text] In continuation of his visit to Bushehr Province, Mr. Yazdi, head of the judiciary branch, spoke to a gathering of Borazjan people. After discussing some aspects of revolutionary movements in Islam, the hegira of Imam Husayn—peace be upon him—to Mecca [as heard], and the uprising of Imam Husayn and his companions in Karbala', he said: All Muslims must defend Islam. If there is anyone who intends to overthrow the system of the Islamic revolution today, decisive legal measures will definitely be taken against him, because this rule has been established on the basis of the movement and the uprising of Imam Husayn, peace be upon him.

The head of the judiciary concluded: If a culture is based on the political-religious ideas of Imam Husayn, peace be upon him, then that culture will be everlasting.

Nepal

Death Sentence Abolished, Press Laws Repealed

BK3007091190 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 30 Jul 90

[Text] Nepal has abolished the death sentence and repealed laws restricting freedom of the press and freedom of association. A spokesman of the Law and Justice Ministry said the death sentence provisions are inconsistent with the new democratic spirit of the country. Two acts empowering the authorities to arbitrarily ban publications and placing restrictions on forming political parties or groups have also been annulled. The spokesman said both these acts put restrictions on the fundamental rights of the Nepalese people.

Communists Call on King To Revoke Nominations

BK2807035690 Hong Kong AFP in English 0346 GMT 28 Jul 90

[Text] Kathmandu, July 28 (AFP)—The Nepal Communist Party [NCP] (Marxist-Leninist) has called on King Birendra to revoke the appointment of officials in the former partyless panchayat system to important constitutional and political posts.

"Such activities would create obstacles in the exercise of democracy, weaken the interim government, reduce the people's confidence in the Council of Ministers, weaken the morale of democratic forces and boost the morale of reactionary forces," the party said in a statement issued Friday [27 July].

The king earlier this week appointed Shyam Prasad Bhattarai, former national panchayat secretary, and Dhruba Bar Singh Thapa, former secretary for law and justice, to a panel that will oversee elections planned for next year. He also appointed as auditor general Madhu Sudhan Dhakal, a former secretary at the Ministry of Water Resources.

The NCP said such appointments ran against the king's own declared aim of promoting a multi-party democracy. The party is grouped in the United Left Front, which in turn is part of the coalition government that came to power in April after two months of pro-democracy protests against the 30-year panchayat system.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Krishna Prasad Bhattarai, who heads the Nepali congress, said Friday that 100 days after taking office his interim government had made tremendous progress. He said the government was pressing ahead with reforms, adding that dissolving the panchayat system had been an "arduous task."

Pakistan

Public Gatherings Banned in Islamabad

BK2907154790 Hong Kong AFP in English 1518 GMT 29 Jul 90

[Text] Islamabad, July 29 (AFP)—Pakistani authorities Sunday clamped a two-month ban on public gatherings in this capital city, ahead of the second anniversary of the death of former President Mohammad Ziaul Haq. Announcing the move, the district administration said certain sectors of the public were planning to make processions and stage demonstrations that were likely to threaten the peace. The official statement, however, made no reference to reported plans of Ejaz ul Haq, the eldest son of the late president, to organize a massive rally in the capital for the August 17 anniversary.

The former military ruler, who died in a mysterious plane crash in 1988, is buried close to Islamabad's imposing Faisal Mosque built at a cost of about 14 million dollars provided by Saudi Arabia. A large crowd assembled around his grave on the first anniversary of his death last year, amidst tension between supporters of the late president and those of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto.

The ban coincided with the current religious mourning by the minority Shi'ite community of the martyrdom of Imam Hussain, the grandson of the Mohammad, the prophet of Islam. Sectarian friction is usual during the annual 10-day period.

"All kinds of gatherings of five or more persons, processions and demonstrations are prohibited," the offical order said, adding no person other than military or police personnel shall carry a firearm, dagger or hatchet.

Mr. Ejaz, a leader of the opposition right-wing Muslim League Party, has been campaigning against the 18-month-old government of Ms. Bhutto. He is backed by the Islamic Demoratic Alliance (IJI) headed by Punjab Province Chief Minister Nawaz Sharif, an arch rival of Pakistan's first woman premier.

Paper Reports Ban on Public Gatherings, Firearms

BK3007094190 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 30 Jul 90 p 3

[Text] Islamabad, July 29—The local district administration today imposed section 144 of Criminal Procedure Code in the Federal Capital Territory, to be effected forthwith for a period of two months.

The order prohibits all kinds of gathering of five or more persons, processions and demonstrations at any public place within the revenue limits of Islamabad District.

According to an order issued by the Additional district Magistrate, carrying of firearms as a show of force has also been prohibited.

The order says: "no person other than the members of the armed forces and police on duty shall carry firearms, spears, daggers and hatchets within the two revenue territorial limits of Islamabad District'.

The order necessitated as it has been made to appear to the administration that certain sections of public are carrying firearms as a show of force which is likely to threaten public peace and tranquility and create serious danger to human life and safety of the general public of Islamabad administration.

It also appeared that certain sections of public were planning to take out processions and to stage demonstration in the district which is likely to threaten public peace and tranquillity.

PPP Official Rules Out Martial Law, New Polls

BK2907105090 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 29 Jul 90

[Text] Pakistan People's Party [PPP] Secretary General Sheikh Rafiq Ahmed has said his party firmly believes in national unity and enjoys popular support. Addressing a

news conference in Islamabad yesterday, he said there is no possibility of the imposition of martial law in the country, mid-term elections, or the formation of a national government. He said these rumors are part of the Islami Jamhoori Ittehad's [Islamic Democratic Alliance] disinformation campaign.

'Breakthrough' in Developing Nuclear Fuel Cycle

BK2707122890 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 27 Jul 90

[Text] Pakistan has made a major breakthrough in the indigenous development of nuclear fuel cycle as a result of the efforts of the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission. The commission has chalked out a strategy for developing capabilities locally to acquire nuclear reactor and related highly sophisticated technology.

'Breakthrough' Made in Nuclear Fuel Development

BK2807145690 Lahore THE NATION in English 28 Jul 90 p 1

[Text] Karachi—Pakistan has made a major breakthrough in the indigenous development of nuclear fuel cycle thanks to the efforts of the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission (PAEC), it is learnt.

The commission's scientists played an important role in the advancement of chemistry in Pakistan which has made valuable contribution to the indigenous nuclear fuel cycle.

In view of the difficulties experienced in acquiring nuclear reactors and related highly sophisticated technology, the PAEC has chalked out its own strategy for developing these capabilities locally.

Most of the infrastructure required in the nuclear fuel cycle has been established. Pakistan Institute of Nuclear Science and Technology (PINSTECH) at Islamabad has played a key role in the successful implementation of this programme. The commission has also established a close liaison with other national industries and universities to achieve this objective.

The commission has been in the forefront of adopting latest technologies for national growth. As a result the infrastructure for adopting modern chemical trends has been adequately established at various institutes of PAEC.

Several laboratories of the commission have been working jointly with national and international organisations like IAEA [International Atomic Energy Agency], WHO, etc. Strong groups of research exist in and around PINSTECH in analytical chemistry, which employ modern techniques.

These groups have already earned international recognition by playing an active role in some international inter-comparison analytical programmes. Their analytical services to PIA, PAF [Pakistan International Airlines, Pakistan Air Force] and various industrial and educational institutions in the country have been extremely helpful.

Analytical chemistry has significantly contributed to the country's nuclear programme. It has been particularly useful in the development of flowsheets for (a) exploiting the nuclear minerals and ores (b) separation, characterisation and production of nuclear and structural materials (c) quality control and quality assurance (d) nuclear fuel fabrication and (e) production of radioisotopes and radio-pharmaceutical.

In addition, PAEC scientists have been collaborating with the universities in building up high quality manpower by supervising chemistry students working for M.Sc, M.Phil and Ph.D. degrees.

Azad Kashmir Chief Says Kashmir International Issue

BK2707143790 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1400 GMT 27 Jul 90

[Text] Raja Mumtaz Hussain Rathod, prime minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, has said that Kashmir is an international problem and it is still on the UN agenda for international issues. In a statement in Islamabad today, he described as incorrect the Indian propaganda that Kashmir is a bilateral dispute. The Azad Kashmir prime minister said that the Kashmir issue will remain unresolved until a free, fair and neutral plebiscite is held.

Sri Lanka

Government Rejects LTTE Cease-Fire Offer

BK2707160490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 27 Jul 90

[Text] The Sri Lankan Government has rejected the LTTE's [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] offer for a cease-fire in the Jaffna Peninsula for the release of soldiers from the Jaffna Fort which has been under siege for the last six weeks. The Sri Lankan minister of state for defense, Mr. Wijeratne, said in Colombo that the feeler has been given to the International Committee of Red Cross who are negotiating with LTTE for cooperation for setting up a large refugee camp in Mannar Island.

Meanwhile, at least 30 LTTE militants and two soldiers were killed in fresh fighting in the northeast.

LTTE Kills 14 Soldiers in Trincomalee 27 Jul

BK2807082290 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0710 GMT 28 Jul 90

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 28 July (LANKAPUVATH)—Fourteen government troops, who were on a route clearing operation were killed yesterday in an ambush by LTTE

[Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] terrorists at Kattaparichan in the Eastern Province District of Trincomalee. Official sources told LANKAPUVATH that the route clearing platoon comprised 30 soldiers. The weapons of the dead soldiers are believed to have been removed by the terrorists.

According to latest reports the rest of the platoon had counter attacked, causing the terrorists to flee taking along with them their wounded.

'Major Military Operation' Completed in Batticaloa

BK2807084890 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0745 GMT 28 Jul 90

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 28 July (LANKAPUVATH)—A major military operation code named "double barrel" was completed in the Batticaloa District of the Eastern Province over the last three days, inflicting heavy losses on LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] terrorists and clearing extensive terrain extending from Batticaloa to Sittandy, Eravur, Chenkalady, Kiran, and Valaichchenai, military sources said yesterday. Major General Gerry de Silva, Chief of the Eastern Command, led this sweep through the eastern districts.

"A large number of terrorists were killed and many of their vehicles and equipment were destroyed. Troops met with resistance at Sittandy, Chenkalady, and the Uttavady bridge", these sources said. He said the security forces had suffered two dead and 16 wounded in the operation, which continued over three days.

"We are now in the mopping-up stage", a senior officer in Colombo confirmed. He said that during this operation, a large LTTE base similar to that at Kanjikudichcharu, complete with hospitals, training grounds, bunkers, underground emplacements etc. spread over a large area was found at Pullipanchakkal, west of Kiran.

The operation was supported by the Air Force and the Navy. Brigadier A.M.U. Seneviratne, commander of the 03 brigade group, commanded the ground troops, while troops on the field were led by Lt. Col. Sarath Fonseka of the 01 Sinha regiment, Lt. Col. Egodawela of the 04 Gemunu watch, Lt. Col. Hiran Halangoda of the 01 Gemunu watch, Lt. Col. Percy Fernando of the 05 Wijebahu regiment and major U. Kandaragama of the 07 Sinha regiment.

LTTE terrorists made another attempt to attack the Sinhala village of Kosgolla in Ampara on Thursday [26 July] evening but were effectively counter attacked by the security forces, who were providing security to the villagers. They withdrew fast as troops directed heavy fire at them.

A Tiger leader identified as 'Sindu' and a number of Tiger cadres were killed by the security forces, when they confronted a gang of LTTE terrorists during a search operation along the Batticaloa-Valaichchenai road on Thursday evening, official sources said.

Troops suffered one dead and six injured in the attack. The terrorists used small arms and mortars to attack the security forces.

At Rottikulam in Batticaloa the Special Task Force [STF] killed three Tigers while on a route clearing mission.

One soldier was injured at Munavattuvaram also in the Batticaloa District, when he stepped on an antipersonnel mine.

In Kumana the STF effectively retaliated a terrorist attack during a search operation. Tigers retreated from their base and the troops recovered ammunition and food from there.

In the north, terrorists attacked a naval detachment with mortars and automatic weapons at Kankesanthurai on thursday evening. One sailor was wounded. The army detachment there also came under small arms mortar fire. The attack was repulsed with the support of gun boats.

Security Forces Capture LTTE Arms Factory

BK2807114990 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 28 Jul 90

[Text] Security forces yesterday captured a large factory of the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] which was used to manufacture land mines, claymore mines, and Tony mines at (Pulliyanpidikhal) in Batticaloa. The troops had detonated a large number of mines before entering the factory. Security forces said that a large quantity of mines was also recovered from this factory. One soldier was killed and five others were injured during the operation. The security forces also found about 25 bunkers around the camp and around 100 sentry points around the mine factory which was situated west of the Kiran Army camp in Batticaloa.

Fierce clashes broke out between troops and Tiger terrorists after two Sinhalese villagers were shot dead and over 100 acres of paddy cultivation was set ablaze by the terrorists in the Eastern Province yesterday morning. Military officials in Colombo said that the terrorists armed with automatic weapons opened fire indiscriminately at a group of 50 farmers in (Pakiyalla) in the Amparai District when they were harvesting paddy. The troops who had rushed to the scene immediately opened fire at the rebels. Police said three farmers were also injured in the attack. There were no reports of casualties among the rebels and troops. But military officials in Colombo said they believed a large number of rebels would have been killed as the troops engaged in the fighting were supported by low-flying helicopter gunships.

Premier Says 'No Military Solution' to LTTE

BK2807130090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 28 Jul 90

[Text] The Sri Lankan prime minister, Mr. Wijetunge, said that there can be no military solution to the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] problem in the northeastern province. Mr. Wijetunge, who is in Male in connection with the silver jubilee celebrations of the Maldivian independence, told newsmen before leaving for home that President Premadasa would resort to consultations, consensus and compromise to solve the ethnic problem.

In reply to a question on the current situation in the northeast, the prime minister said the government is trying its best to put an end to the subversive activities of the LTTE. When reminded of Mr. Premadasa's call for international mediation to end fighting, Mr. Wijetunge said the position has not changed and details are being worked out.

Meanwhile, 26 people including 15 soldiers and seven Tamil militants were killed yesterday in the Northeastern Province in continuing clashes between the security forces and the militants.

'Fierce Clashes' Reported in Trincomalee Area

BK2907114590 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 29 Jul 90

[Text] Fierce clashes broke out yesterday at Kattaparichan in the Trincomalee District between the security forces and LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] terrorists. Unofficial sources said that terrorists in large numbers were killed during the gun battle that raged for several hours. Fourteen security forces personnel also died in this battle which broke out during a search operation led by the forces. Helicopter gunships were in operation in pursuit of the fleeing terrorists. Meanwhile, reports indicate that the Armed Forces further consolidated their position and conducted operations in the north.

15 Rebels, 5 Muslims Die in Ethnic Violence

BK2907115990 Hong Kong AFP in English 1140 GMT 29 Jul 90

[Text] Colombo, July 29 (AFP)—Government troops shot dead at least 15 Tamil guerrillas and the Tiger rebels killed five Moslems in Sri Lanka's troubled northeast, military officials and sources said Sunday.

Troops backed by the Navy killed seven guerrillas of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) in northern Talaimannar Saturday, military officials said here, adding that the security forces suffered no losses.

The Army also secured an area for dropping soldiers from helicopters in nearby Vavuniya district, and killed three rebel fighters during a major sweep Saturday, an official said. Several Air Force helicopters have been dropping hundreds of battle-tested troops to reinforce the army in the north, indicating that heavy fighting would intensify in the region in the coming days.

Troops also shot and killed five more LTTE guerrillas during search operations on the Mankulam-Mullaitivu highway in the north, the officials said. There were no casualties among government forces.

In the island's multi-racial east, at least five Moslems were killed late Saturday [28 July] when heavily armed LTTE cadres attacked a Mosque south of Sampanthurai town in Ampara district, official sources here said. Initial reports estimated the number of wounded at 10. The sources said the death toll could be much higher. Sampanthurai is one of many Moslem-dominated areas in the region that have been subjected to attacks by the LTTE, which has accused Moslems of siding with security forces hunting its fighters. No further details of the Sampanthurai violence were available.

In continued attacks on Army camps in the north, Tamil guerrillas fired mortars and rifle-fired grenades, leaving at least 10 troops injured across the Tamil-majority region, officials said. At least seven soldiers were injured near Paranthan town when security forces linking up with troops from the Elephant Pass Army Camp further up faced stiff LTTE resistance, an official said. A soldier and a sailor were also wounded elsewhere.

The Elephant Pass Army Camp which Colombo claims has been freed of rebel siege came under sporadic mortar fire, military officials said. The narrow pass links the northern Jaffna peninsula with the mainland.

Tigers also fired mortars into the ancient Jaffna fort, which houses a key army garrison.

In northern Silvaturai, a soldier was injured when he stepped on a mine.

Major General Denzil Kobbekaduwa, military commander of the northern sector, has said that troops were progressively wresting control of the Vavuniya-Elephant Pass highway, which he said was "most essential to march forward." Gen. Kobbekaduwa told the SUNDAY OBSERVER that it was difficult to land helicopters in the jungle. "That is why we have to wrest control of the highway," the newspaper quoted him as saying.

Military officials here said that troops had been clearing several rebel-held highways in the north but with the capture of the Vavuniya-Elephant Pass road, there could be easier movement for advancing troops.

"Tigers gather in jungles to attack our camps. We have no way to despatch troops to these camps during emergencies," Gen. Kobbekaduwa said, adding that the roadway was mined and the Air Force had been stretched to the limit to take troops by helicopter.

Intense fighting broke out last week between troops and the LTTE in the northern district of Kilinochchi where the Kilinochchi, Paranthan and Elephant Pass Army camps are

located. The Elephant Pass causeway links Kilinochchi with the Jaffna peninsula, a known rebel stronghold.

More than 2,250 people have died in the violence in Sri Lanka's primarily Tamil northeast while thousands more have been made refugees.

The fighting erupted when the LTTE seized hundreds of policemen from many stations in the northeast on June 11, shattering 14 months of peace talks between Colombo and the guerrillas.

LTTE Camp Reported Destroyed, 50 Rebels Killed

BK3007111290 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1031 GMT 30 Jul 90

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, July 30 (LANKAPUVATH)—Security forces yesterday destroyed a 10-acre Tiger [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] camp on the Batticaloa-Polonnaruwa road and killed over 50 Tigers, security sources said this morning. This Tiger camp was situated at Pulipanchakal a location three miles into the jungle and in close proximity to the Kiran Army Camp, a report in the 'OBSERVER' states. It further states that security forces believe that this camp was utilised at the outset of the conflict to send poisonous gas into the Kiran camp. Sources said there was ample evidence to prove it. There were twenty-five underground bunkers in this camp and six of them were large enough to accommodate about 50 men at a time. Railway sleepers and railway lines have been used to construct the bunkers. There were also over 25 watch-huts within the destroyed camp. In one corner of the camp there was a rifle range. Security forces said the camp at Pulipanchakal was almost similar in style to the Kanjikudichchiaru Camp but was smaller in size. Pulipanchakal means the rock from where the tiger jumped.

Latest reports from Kiran say that the Tigers, who survived the Army onslaught had burnt about twenty bodies of their colleagues. Those who survived had escaped in five tractors covered with tree branches as a camouflage but the tractors along with the Tigers were destroyed by helicopter gunships. Brigadier A.M.V. Seneviratne and Colonel Sarath Fonseka of the Sinha Regiment led the attack on the Pulipanchakal Tiger camp.